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Israeli Arms Said Linked to Colombian Murder

FL1807225390 Bridgetown CANA in English 2051 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Report by Colin James]

[Excerpts] St. John's, Antigua, July 18, CANA—A top Colombian investigator said on Wednesday [18 Jul] his government had traced 215 Israeli-made rifles used in the drug trade to Antigua. Pablo Salinas Gonzales Monque, chief of the Special Investigation Office of Colombia's Attorney General, said the guns were discovered on the ranch of slain Colombian drug dealer Gonzalo Rodrigues Gacha.

"About 215 Galil rifles were found," he told a commission appointed by the Antigua and Barbuda Government to probe the arms transshipment through St. John's in April, 1989.

"Each gun has a registration number for identification. The registration numbers on the guns correspond with those which were sent to Antigua."

Monque was the first of six witnesses for the commission, headed by British Jurist Louis Blom-Cooper. [passage omitted]

The Colombian, using an interpreter, devoted much of his time to Gacha and the drug trade. He said: "Gacha was a narco-trafficker in Colombia since 1988 who started a war of politicial struggle against our government. For this reason, he organised a private army made up of foreign mercenaries. He was armed and equipped for this reason.

"He was one the chiefs of the Medellin Cartel. According to intelligence reports, he supplied cocaine to the United States....

"His wealth is incalculable. Because of this, our government is still checking all his wealth which consists of numerous land holdings."

The investigator added: "I can't remember the exact figure but it is about U.S. 42 million dollars that was found on his property after his death.

"The foreign mercenaries Gacha used came from different countries; Israel, England, Spain, and Australia among others."

The investigator said the powerful drug cartel used weapons technology that was superior to what the government forces had.

"...Some of the arms came from Antigua and Barbuda and they were found on the ranch of Gacha," he reported.

"On questioning the Israeli Government from where these arms came, the Israeli Government told us that they sold the arms officially to the government of Antigua and Barbuda...."

The Antiguan Government was notified diplomatically with the objective of clarifying the matter, he said.

Monque was asked to identify a document displaying the registration numbers of the guns found on the ranch.

"The Israeli Government has confirmed that these numbers coincide with the one that they have."

He said the serial number of one rifle—"71721058"—matches the gun that was used in the assassination of the presidential candidate Luiz Carlos Galan in August 1989. [passage omitted]

Under cross-examination by Rex McKay, lawyer for the state, about whether the Antiguan Government has reported to Colombia that it did not order or ship the arms, Monque said:

"I did not come here to have an inquisition about any persons or about the government of Antigua and Barbuda. The reason I am here is to establish through your commission whether Colombian officials were responsible to Colombia."

Monque will be called back to the witness stand later this week after the defence team has studied new evidence that was introduced during his re-examination by Geoffery Robertson, lawyer to the commissioner. The evidence is a statement made by Gacha's doctor to the U.S. Senate last year. Monque said the doctor's statement "has helped my government to establish the organisational structure of Gacha's organisation."

"Personally, I think he has spoken the truth. It is impossible for him to fabricate such a history of the organisation," he added.

Gacha's doctor is a protected witness in the U.S.

Customs Violations Revealed

FL2107023190 Bridgetown CANA in English 2254 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Report by Colin James]

[Excerpts] St. John's, Antigua, July 20, CANA—Antigua and Barbuda's Customs officials broke several rules in handling a shipment of Israeli arms in transit in 1989, even listing the weapons as "general cargo," comptroller of customs, Rolston Samuel, complained Friday [20 Jul]. Samuel said an import licence had to be shown here for all goods brought from Israel, but the procedure was not followed. He also reported that customs had broken the rules by accepting a photocopied document, an entry warrant.

Samuel was giving evidence before a commission of enquiry the government here set up into the shipment of arms that ended up in the hands of Colombian drug dealers. The government said it never sanctioned the arms purchase, but Israeli documents link the former national security advisor, Vere Bird Jr., to the shipment. Bird denied involvement.

Samuel gave evidence for almost five and a half hours. His evidence highlighted the role of customs officers including Glenton Armstong, with eight years' experience, and junior tariff clerk Sean Leitch, who has two years' experience. Both were suspended from duties when the scandal broke this year. [passage omitted]

Samuel told the inquiry that when the vessel "Else Th" arrived in the St. John's deep water harbour on April 22 from Gibraltar with a 10 ton container of arms that the boarding officer was "required to alert either the officer in charge of the transit shed or myself."

"It was not a normal shipment," he said, adding that the officer should have detained the goods.

During Samuel's examination it was revealed that the ship's manifest, giving a description of the goods, was missing from the customs file.

"I must say there is also one (manifest) that is lodged with the boarding officer. I've not been able to find that one," the comptroller admitted.

Samuel said when Armstrong was asked if he saw the declaration for arms and explosives on the manifest his reply was "yes" and that it was "an oversight" on his part not to alert his superiors. Commissioner Louis Blom-Cooper also heard that Armstrong listed in the customs boarding book the cargo brought here by "Else Th" as "general." [passage omitted]

"Several things are unusual. The entry has no signature of the importer or agent. All entries require a signature. That is quite improper. The statement (declaring the cargo to the consignee) is not signed." Samuel explained.

Cuba

GRANMA To Publish Testimony on 'Provocation'

FL2007175290 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] The five testimonies on the provocation at the CSFR Embassy which were broadcast by Cuban television last night will be published in full by GRANMA newspaper tomorrow. The statements made by the five citizens, all with criminal records and two of them subject to new trials, irrefutably prove that this was a deliberate and planned action, just as the Cuban Government has said from the start. The special program that was broadcast last night, the text of which will be published tomorrow, leaves no doubt whatsoever that representatives from several diplomatic missions from Western countries and the U.S. Interests Section in Cuba are involved in this new provocation.

Events Relating to Incidents at Spanish Embassy

Five More Seek Refuge

PA2007164090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1603 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Havana 20 Jul (EFE)—Five more Cubans today sought refuge at the Spanish Embassy, embassy diplomatic sources have told EFE.

They are a young couple and a child, who entered through the main door in a manner that has not been clarified. Two other youths entered the diplomatic territory from a lot located at the back of the embassy.

The two entries occurred almost simultaneously at 1045 (1445 GMT). The Cuban police managed to arrest another youth before he could enter the premises.

Foreign Ministry Comments

FL2007190990 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Apropos Spanish Foreign Minister Fernandez-Ordonez' statements concerning the illegal and unjustified presence of Cuban citizens in buildings of the Spanish diplomatic mission in Havana, a Cuban Foreign Ministry [Minrex] spokesperson has issued a few comments.

To his confessed ignorance of the Cuban situation, Mr. Fernandez-Ordonez adds a scandalous lack of education in the field of international law, especially as it concerns the right of asylum, and an equally spectacular ignorance of Spain's position. Spain has not signed any agreement in this regard, nor has it signed any kind of agreement with Cuba to regulate what, as a consequence, constitutes actions which violate international norms and Cuban law. The fundamental thing is that Mr. Fernandez-Ordonez is not qualified from the moral point of view to question the guarantees enjoyed by citizens of our country.

In another part of the comments, the Cuban Foreign Ministry spokesperson asserts that the anguished Spanish foreign minister will not be able to transform into political refugees, displaced individuals and adventurers who are not the object of any type of persecution or hostility in our country. All those who enter or are taken into European embassies and attempt to take advantage of diplomatic immunity to convert themselves from criminals into political refugees will be perpetual guests in Havana and of the governments in question.

We deeply regret that they are there at the expense of the Spanish people, for whom, out of respect and fraternal feelings, we would wish a foreign minister who is at least more consistent with the Spanish people's intelligence and common sense.

The backgrounds of the Spanish Embassy's guests are as follows:

Luis Monteagudo Rodriguez, 27 years old, a member of the Jehovah's Witnesses sect with a sixth-grade education and a habitual vagrant. He has received medical treatment for alcohol abuse. In 1985 he attempted to enter the U.S. Interests Section when drunk. He was sentenced on two occasions for speculation, hoarding, and threats.

Eduardo Magdalena Ruiz, 18 years old, a student who has been held back. The National Revolutionary Police warned him about disorderly conduct and he has experienced difficulties with his family.

Miguel Angel Aldana Ruiz, 21 years old, a student who has been held back and who is a habitual vagrant. He has served a sentence for attempted illegal departure from the country and strong-arm robbery to facilitate his departure. He is the half-brother of Eduardo Magdalena Ruiz and has also spent his life in an adverse family climate.

Otoniel Pichardo Rangel, 41 years old, a midlevel dental prosthetics technician who left his job after having been penalized for unjustified absenteeism. He has no criminal record.

These are the political biographies of the refugees and persecuted persons for whose safety Spanish Foreign Minister Fernandez-Ordonez feels such distress.

In a dispatch dated this morning from Madrid, AFP said, verbatim: The Spanish Government will not take further measures regarding its ongoing conflict with the Cuban authorities, Minister Government Spokesperson Rosa Conde said this Friday [20 Jul]. Rosa Conde specified that the government is concerned about the tension with Cuba, but not excessively worried because Spain will continue to try to resolve the situation through dialogue with the Cuban authorities.

Finally, AFP says that the government's attitude is one of firmness and calmness, the spokesperson said, stressing that it would not take measures in addition to those already

adopted, especially that of calling the Spanish ambassador in that country back for consultations.

GRANMA Devotes Full Page

PA2007171090 Paris AFP in Spanish 1558 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Havana, 20 Jul (AFP)—The Cuban daily GRANMA on 20 July devoted a full page to the incidents at the Spanish Embassy in Havana and said that Spanish Foreign Affairs Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez "is stepping up an insolent series of offensive, threatening statements against Cuba."

This report is the first to appear in the Cuban press on the incidents that have seriously worsened relations between the two countries. Until today, the case had not been mentioned by the local media.

Under the headline of "The Lies of the Officious Foreign Minister," the Communist Party newspaper, considered the official organ of the Cuban Government, published the Spanish foreign ministers' statements in Brussels that irritated the Cuban Government.

To answer Fernandez-Ordonez, Havana distributed abroad "commentaries" officially attributed to a Cuban Foreign Ministry spokesman. The text of the "commentaries," which had repercussions in Madrid because of their spite, were also published for the first time in GRANMA.

On the same page, the newspaper printed brief "resumes" of the four [as received] Cubans currently under protection at the Spanish Embassy in Havana. According to the brief notes in GRANMA, Luis Monteagudo Rodriguez is a 27-year-old "member of the Jehovah's Witnesses," who entered the embassy on 12 July "armed with a machete after jumping a fence and breaking a window." In 1985, Monteagudo tried to enter the U.S. diplomatic office "completely drunk," and since then, he "has been given treatment for alcohol abuse," according to GRANMA.

Eduardo Magdalena Ruiz, 18, and Miguel Angel Aldana Ruiz, 21, are half-brothers who entered the embassy on 14 July, the newspaper added. The paper said that Ruiz is a "student who is doing very poorly in school, while Aldana Ruiz is a "habitual vagrant" who was imprisoned in 1987 "for trying to leave illegally and stealing to facilitate his escape."

Otoniel Pichardo Rangel, who is 41 and entered the Spanish Embassy on 18 July, is an "average dental technician." Although "he does not have a criminal record" according to GRANMA, last March "he left his work after having been reprimanded for unjustified absences."

The newspaper added that "only one of them is wanted in court, on charges of bigamy," but the individual was not named. Such are, the paper concluded, "the refugees and the persecuted whose security worries the misinformed Spanish foreign minister."

Nine More Enter Embassy

LD2107103490 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Early this morning, another nine people managed to get into the Spanish Embassy in Cuba, bringing to 18 the number of Cubans who have sought refuge in this diplomatic mission since last week.

Of the nine people, four got into the diplomatic territory across a roof from an adjoining building on El Morro Street at about 0200 local time, according to a report from Spanish diplomatic sources. The other five climbed up the facade of the building and broke in through the balcony of the office of the embassy's first secretary, Fidel Sendagorta, at about 0400. Although their identities have not yet been disclosed, it is known that they are all well-built men of between 25 and 40 years of age.

The latest refugees were immediately searched by the Spanish Special Operations Groups—GEO's—policemen to check for weapons. Spanish diplomats went to the embassy as soon as they learned of the incident. The Spanish ambassador to Cuba, Antonio Serrano de Haro, who has been recalled for consultations with the government in Madrid, is still in Havana and, according to a statement by him, he still does not know when he will return for these consultations at the Foreign Ministry.

Police Cordon Tightened

LD2107222790 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Over 100 Cuban policemen belonging to that country's Ministry of the Interior's special groups have now cordoned off a zone of nearly 150 meters around the Spanish Embassy in Havana, prohibiting both pedestrians and vehicles from passing through it. Barriers have even been set up in the streets closest to our mission. Access to the Embassy, according to an official from the Ministry of the Interior, is only permitted for persons with diplomatic status or with authorization. [passage omitted]

Suspected 'Moles' Isolated

LD2207144190 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Spain, which is continuing to negotiate with the Cuban authorities for a solution concerning the people taken in at its embassy in Havana, is keeping the nine people who managed to get into the diplomatic mission yesterday in isolation, in spite of the strong police cordon, because it suspects they could be agents of the Cuban regime.

If it could be proven that they are indeed agents—moles—whose objective could be to increase the tension even more, Ambassador Antonio Serrano de Haro is

prepared to expel them. Meanwhile, in spite of the uneasy calm right now, it is feared that further attempts to get into the diplomatic building could occur in the next few hours.

Envoy Delays Return to Madrid

LD2107090190 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 0700 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Excerpt] The police cordon set up by the Cuban Government around our country's embassy in Havana did not prevent the entry [yesterday] of five more refugees, bringing to nine the number of people, the number of opponents of the regime of Fidel Castro, who are now inside the Spanish diplomatic mission.

Meanwhile, the return to Madrid of our ambassador, Antonio Serrano de Haro, who is due to brief the government today on developments in the Spanish-Cuban crisis, has been postponed until Monday [23 July]. The contacts that the Spanish diplomat is having with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Havana could be the reason for this delay. [passage omitted]

Police Surround FRG, Canadian Embassies

PA2107152590 Paris AFP in Spanish 1500 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Havana, 21 Jul (AFP)—Hours after nine more Cubans sought refuge at the Spanish Embassy, AFP has confirmed that a large number of policemen surrounded the FRG and Canadian Embassies in Havana this morning.

The policemen have blocked access to the Canadian Embassy, which is located in the residential Miramar neighborhood. Glyn Berry, first secretary at the Canadian Embassy, told AFP that there are no refugees at the mission.

Meanwhile, German sources have confirmed that the FRG Embassy in the same neighborhood has also been surrounded by a large number of policemen. Although there are no refugees at the FRG Embassy, four individuals attempted to enter it on 20 July but were arrested by the police.

According to the diplomats, these measures could lead to large-scale demonstrations against the four embassies (U.S., Canada, FRG, and Czechoslovakia), which have been accused of planning the entry of refugees into the Czechoslovak Embassy on 9 July.

Archbishop of Havana Demands Religious Freedom

PA2207195590 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1705 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Report by Gerardo Gonzalez Vega]

[Text] Havana, 22 Jul (EFE)—Monsignor Jaime Ortega, archbishop of Havana, has demanded religious freedom in Cuba in a handbill entitled "The Church" which was distributed today to congregations of all the churches in the Havana Archdiocese, which covers the western half of the island.

Msgr. Ortega has thus come out against the debates—in preparation for the Fourth Congress of the Cuban Communist Party (PCC) in 1991—on the possibility of allowing Christians to join the party.

The archbishop of Havana says that most of the local PCC plenums that have been held seem to lean toward the rejection of any form of discrimination against membership in the party for religious reasons.

The context, according to Ortega, is that full political participation is a citizen's right, and since the Cuban state is organized according to a one-party system, the impossibility of belonging to that party for reasons of faith limits the exercise of politial rights.

However, the Catholic church in Cuba has never insisted on changing that limitation. Therefore, Ortega says, it seems that the abolition of discrimination against the membership of Catholics in the party should be the end result of a process to normalize the social situation of Catholics.

This normalization, Msgr. Ortega says, would also allow PCC members to again practice religion or to practice it for the first time, and also to raise their children in the faith.

Msgr. Ortega maintains that for Catholics to join the PCC, the party should stop being confessedly atheist as it is now, and it should not set great store in whether its members are believers, atheists, or agnostics.

As it is now, the believer would be admitted to a party, which, in religious issues, chooses disbelief as the best answer for man and society, Msgr. Ortega writes.

Ortega says that in his opinion, it would be more practical and expedient to submit to the National People's Power Assembly (parliament) a bill on religion that would outline believers' rights and duties rather than discuss whether or not to admit believers into the PCC.

A law on religious freedom that would implement every aspect of religion discussed in the Constitution of the Republic would be much more effective for believers as a whole than to have a few believers join the party, Msgr. Ortega adds.

The archbishop says that he wrote his pastoral after seeing a poster that called for opinions and contributions for the fourth congress.

In short, Msgr. Ortega is asking for an explanation of the party's position and program concerning religion, and for an explicit law on religious freedom.

These two, according to the archbishop, should be the normal premises upon which believers would join the party.

The issue of allowing believers to join the PCC was initially brought up by Cuban President Fidel Castro at

a meeting with progressive Christians during his visit to Brazil in March for the inauguration of President Fernando Collor de Mello.

The idea was welcomed in Havana by Protestant sectors working on the island, and even by representatives of the Afro-Cuban syncretic religions, who favor having believers join the PCC.

The PCC later discussed the topic in a favorable light at the debates in preparation for the fourth congress, and it was among the most outstanding changes that the PCC is willing to make within its organization.

The archbishop's pastoral calling for religious freedom is the Catholic Church's first public response to President Castro's proposal. The Catholic Church is the foremost Christian church on the island.

Castro's Son on Sharing of Nuclear Expertise

FL2107123890 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] In Mexico City, Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart has said that Cuba would be willing to exchange information and technology on nuclear energy, based on mutual respect, with any country in the world, even the United States. Speaking to a group of Mexican and foreign journalists, the executive secretary of Cuba's nuclear affairs department stressed that every state in the world has the right to develop its own alternative sources of energy and any kind of conditions placed on this would be a great historic injustice. Castro Diaz-Balart explained how certain U.S. political sectors are questioning Cuba's nuclear energy development without taking into consideration the technical and scientific aspects of this issue.

Views on Nuclear Energy, U.S., USSR

PA2107144790 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2355 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Jul (EFE)—Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart, son of President Fidel Castro Ruz and executive secretary of the Cuban Atomic Energy Commission, said in Mexico today that the Cuban revolution has been an incentive and a stimulus for the United States to pay attention to its southern neighbors.

In statements made to EFE before returning to Havana, the son of the Cuban president said Cuba wants to develop itself and work in peace, not bothering anyone, but we are not going to surrender our achievements. Our people are strong, he said, and we are going to resist until we prevail.

Castro Diaz-Balart, a nuclear physicist, traveled to Mexico to sign with Energy and Mines Secretary Fernando Hiriart three cooperation agreements for the specific and peaceful use of nuclear energy to improve medical and nutritional techniques and to conduct technical and scientific exchanges.

During his stay in this country, the top Cuban official visited various nuclear energy centers such as Laguna Verde.

Castro Diaz-Balart said that Cubans will never emulate certain examples. It has never been our objective to see how many times one country can destroy another. The one with the huge potential to destroy is the United States, not Cuba but the United States, he said.

Still on the previous topic, he said that what threatens the United States is the example of the Cuban people. It is a sovereign, independent, and dignified country, capable of making independent decisions at the very doorstep of the great empire, and they are not pleased with that, he stated.

He added that in the fields of agriculture and nuclear energy, among others, Cuba has endured biological aggressions by the United States.

Castro Diaz-Balart also said that the U.S. Government is troubled by any Cuban achievement in any field, such as the field of biotechnology, which has allowed us to greatly develop our medicines. We have placed some medicines on the market even before the Americans have, he added.

He said it will be very difficult, unless it is by foreign means, to prevent Cuba from developing nuclear energy for peaceful uses, biotechnology, or the pharmaceutical industry.

The son of the Cuban president asserted that his country is developing the nuclear energy industry responsibly and seriously and with a solid basis. He added that there is really no reason for the United States to worry about this.

In this regard, Diaz-Balart said that Cuban scientists have been in touch with U.S. officials who have visited the Cuban nuclear plants and been given all the information they have requested in this field.

Similarly, he added that Cuba has sent experts to the United States and that therefore Cuba has a certain relationship with the United States in that field.

He also stressed that political reasons prevent a larger flow of exchange of scientific information between Cuba and the United States, and he clarified that Cuba is not the one creating the obstacles.

The Cuban president's son said that the United States is as worried about the nuclear plant that Cuba is currently installing in its territory as Cuba is regarding the number of military installations and nuclear reactors, approximately 12, that are installed in the southern United States. We are much more worried than they are. Therefore, based on this mutual situation we should exchange information and knowledge.

In addition, Diaz-Balart stated that there are still communist regimes in Asia, Cuba, and the Soviet Union, the father

of socialism, although in the latter country communism is tinged with a new program and a new social basis.

Regarding the above statement, he said that to say real socialism or socialism has completely failed because of the events in Eastern Europe is to reach a hasty conclusion. He added that communism is a concept, a philosophy, a complete system of values that cannot be evaluated by one circumstancial event.

Stressing that in Cuba the defense of the country, communism, and the fatherland go hand in hand, Diaz-Balart reiterated that the Cuban people do not want to be an appendage of the United States.

He stated that the changes that have taken place in the USSR during the last few years are very important for that country because it is a great world power and because there are matters that cannot be concealed.

In conclusion, he stated that the history of the Soviet people and their development will allow the Soviet Union to overcome its current problems and find the best possible path. We, the Cuban people, wish them total success.

Bolivian Committee Says U.S. Undermining Havana

FL2107125590 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] The Bolivian Committee for Solidarity With the Peoples has accused the United States of unleashing a campaign to destabilize the Government of Cuba. This statement was made by the committee, which is presided over by deputy (Lavianet), in a letter to OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares. The letter denounces the increasing intervention of the United States in Latin America. It adds that the Bush government has added psychological aggression and blackmail to sabotage and economic and diplomatic blockade as weapons to encourage third countries to make decisions against Cuba.

Comment on U.S. Release of Anti-Castro Activist

PA2207022690 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] Western news agencies are describing Orlando Bosch as an anti-Castro activist in a futile effort to improve the public image of this Cuban-born terrorist who has been released in Miami by the U.S. authorities.

The U.S. Government, which claims it heads a worldwide antiterrorist campaign, has once again engaged in negotiations with Orlando Bosch, an old U.S. tool, to put the final touch on his release.

Bosch was always a CIA pawn and as such he was one of the direct or indirect masterminds of some of the attacks carried out against Cuba over the past 30 years.

The irrational anticommunism and natural killer instinct of Orlando Bosch turned him into a somewhat unmanageable CIA agent who was apt to add some seasoning of his own to the anti-Cuban plans of several U.S. administrations.

Undoubtedly Bosch has the debatable merit of having become an uncomfortable tool for the CIA. Because of this, he was apparently abandoned.

Orlando Bosch, one of the masterminds of the 1976 sabotage of a Cubana Airline plane in which 73 people died, could have served a life sentence if he had just planned that massacre. This doctor, who forgot his obligation to save, not kill, people, added to this lengthy list of services on the side of terrorism attacks on Cuban towns that caused the deaths of children. He also participated in a bazooka attack on a Polish ship anchored in Florida waters.

Bosch's record includes more than 90 attacks, ranging from placing bombs to kidnapping and murder. It also includes terrorist activities in Chile and Costa Rica. Bosch was in prison in Venezuela, in a very comfortable prison, for 11 years. When the case against the masterminds and the executors of the sabotage against the Cuban plane ended and he was acquitted, he was sent back to the United States.

Since 1988 he has waited in a Miami prison for a country to accept him, but the 31 countries that were consulted refused to accept such an undesirable individual.

In the face of pressure from the most reactionary sectors of the Cuban community in Miami, the U.S. Government has just released Orlando Bosch. To lessen the criticism from the people who remember Bosch's criminal record, the guards placed a surveillance device on him, they will raid his residence without notice, monitor his telephone calls, force him to report who he talks to, and will only allow him to be on the streets for three hours per day.

This Hollywood-like setup is aimed at diluting the revulsion of people who still think that killers must be punished.

Orlando Bosch has many friends in and out of Miami, even in the CIA, and these friends will get in touch with him if this is what he wants. This kind of movement, of course, would not be detected by the electronic bracelet.

Robaina Meets With Argentine Officials

FL2107131390 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Bilateral relations and possibilities for mutual cooperation were analyzed in Buenos Aires by representatives of the ruling Justicialist Peronist Party and the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC]. Roberto Robaina, alternate member of the PCC Politburo, who is visiting the Argentine capital, referred to Cuba's economic

development, the process of the Fourth PCC Congress, and the new goals of Cuba's youths.

Argentina was represented by Cesar Arias, Argentine deputy minister of justice; (Jorge Rachik), Peronist press secretary; and Joaquin LaRocha, representative of Justicialist President Antonio Cafiero.

Labor Leader Meets Afghanistan's Najibullah

FL2107182290 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1801 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Afghan President Muhammad Najibullah today received Jose Antonio Roque, member of the National Committee of the Cuban Workers Federation [CTC], who has been invited to the second congress of Afghan trade unions.

Najibullah expressed his appreciation for Cuba's presence at the Kabul trade union forum and he greeted the Cuban people and Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

For his part, Roque condemned U.S. interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and expressed Cuba's solidarity with the Afghan people. He also congratulated the government on its efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict and achieve national reconciliation.

The Cuban labor leader spoke at the Kabul trade union congress, where he in turn received the Afghan trade unions' support for Cuba's staunch defense of socialism.

Latin American Socialists Meet in Havana

FL2107025390 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] The Latin American Socialists Coordinating Board today held a news conference at the press room of the Havana Libre Hotel. The representatives of Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, Mexico, [words insistinct], and Bolivia explained that today Latin American socialists are a growing force that contributes to uniting the action of regional leftist forces which are currently going through difficult times. Proof of this work is the victory of the Broad Front in Montevideo's mayoral election, the large number [words indistinct] of workers in Brazil, and the electoral progress in Ecuador and Chile. The representatives also discussed drug trafficking and stressed the need to create a Latin American doctrine to avoid viewing the problem through the U.S. hegemonic prism.

Castro Holds Reception for Esperanto Delegates

FL2007200590 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro last night held a reception for the delegates attending the 75th Esperanto Congress which will end tomorrow at Havana's Palace of Conventions. More than 1,500 foreign and 400 Cuban delegates are attending the event.

During the reception, John Wells, president of the Universal Association of Esperanto, compared the warmth of Cuba's climate to the welcome the delegates received from Cuba's leaders and people, which, in conjunction with the support of the press, contributed to the success of the meeting. Wells added that the Esperanto delegates did not come to Cuba to discuss Esperanto; they came to discuss the world's problems in that language.

Jorge Risquet and Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, members of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC]; and Jose Ramon Fernandez, alternate member of the PCC Politburo and education minister, were also at the reception Fidel held at the Palace of Conventions.

Havana Radio's Esperanto Program Explained

FL2007184390 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Radio Havana Cuba [Havana International Service] is broadcasting the 75th Esperanto Congress to all of the Americas and part of Europe.

[Begin recording] [First announcer, in vernacular] [Words indistinct].

[Second announcer, in Esperanto] Greetings to everyone. Greetings dear friends of Radio Havana Cuba. I am at the 75th World Eserperanto Congress coming to everyone from Havana's Palace of Conventions.

[Humberto Casanova] Since 11 September 1988, Radio Havana Cuba has had a broadcast in Esperanto. The editing and recording unit is now here at the Palace of Conventions. We do a daily 10-minute program. In addition, we are recording all the most important events of the congress, for example, the universal nature of the congress. It is a high-level conference. [Words indistinct] We are recording the main activities, the topics discussed at the congress so that we can later use it in our program. I think that the Esperanto language has gained success on Radio Havana Cuba in just a short time. It is the radio station's ninth language and, for example, we have received more letters in this language than in other languages in which we broadcast daily and have been broadcasting for many years. [end recording]

Romanian President Receives Ricardo Cabrisas

FL2107031390 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Romanian President Ion Iliescu today received Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas. The meeting was officially characterized as cordial and friendly. The two politicians exchanged information on various aspects of the current political and economic situation in their countries. Cabrisas talked about [word indistinct] by Cuba to establish economic and trade cooperation mechanisms for the coming years in accordance with the changes in world markets.

Cabrisas agreed with the Romanian president on the need for these policies. Iliescu and Cabrisas stressed the importance of broadening and diversifying the relations between Cuba and Romania, particularly in economic and trade areas. Today Cabrisas also met with the Romanian agriculture minister and with (Anton Batucescu), secretary of state for trade and industry.

Note on Distribution Measures in Havana

FL2107144490 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1350 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] The Domestic Trade Ministry and the Havana City People's Government have issued the following note:

Since 15 June [as heard], a provisional measure has been in effect in Havana City for the sale of industrial products which allows each consumer to have access to these items based on availability. The administrator of each unit is responsible for this task.

This measure was the result of an agreement reached between the Havana City People's Government and the Domestic Trade Ministry to minimize the inconveniences the population has faced because of the long lines resulting from a shortage of some industrial products and which was worsened by the actions of paid queue-standers [*coleros*] and other antisocial individuals.

In view of the different opinions received from the population, especially those (?frequently) received from working women, against this system, which the people feel has created certain inconveniences for them, the central government instructed the Domestic Trade Ministry and the Havana City People's Government to identify and decide as soon as possible on the most appropriate methods of distribution during this current shortage situation.

The Domestic Trade Ministry and the people's government will continue to seek the opinion of the population, trade administrators and workers, district delegates, and mass organizations on these issues. More severe actions will be taken against paid queue-standers and speculators who profit from the sweat of our people during these times of combat and revolutionary work.

Thus ends the report issued by the Domestic Trade Ministry and the Havana City People's Government.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Dominica's Charles Favors Single Caricom Currency

FL1907212490 Bridgetown CANA in English 1624 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, July, 19 CANA—Dominica is backing the establishment of a Caribbean Community (Caricom) Central Bank to facilitate a long-mooted proposal for a single currency for the entire English-speaking Caribbean.

Prime Minister Eugenia Charles said Wednesday [18 July] that a single Caricom currency could be a real possibility in the near future, through the setting up of "one central bank as we have in the OECS."

"I think it would be a good thing. It would strengthen the Caricom trade arrangements, strengthen the relations between Caricom countries. But I don't think it will be an easy thing to obtain, I think it will be difficult," Charles said.

The 13-member Caribbean Community currently has seven central banks—one in each of the independent states, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Guyana, Belize, and Bahamas, and the Central Bank of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) based in St. Kitts. The OECS Central Bank serves Dominica, Antigua, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, St. Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat, and Grenada.

Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank Dwight Venner has been quoted as saying that a start can be made by linking currencies closer in value, suggesting that Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, and the OECS countries would stand a better chance of starting, leaving room for the others to join at a later stage.

Caricom Health Ministers Begin 2-Day Meeting

FL2007000190 Bridgetown CANA in English 1913 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, July 19, CANA—Caribbean Community (Caricom) health ministers began a two-day meeting here on Thursday [19 July], noting the region had achieved significant progress in providing adequate health care for its people. But speakers at the opening session of the 12th ministerial meeting said further progress was being hampered by the region's fragile economic base and the outbreak of various diseases, including the deadly Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

"...The evidence is slowly mounting to indicate that we are meeting at a time of an emerging crisis in our health services," said Rudolph Collins, director of functional cooperation at the Caricom secretariat. "There is increasing concern, certainly among our health professionals, that we are at the edge of a decline in health standards and health care."

Collins said the evidence of the crisis facing the region could not be found in the formal statistics, "but in such indicators as the increased hospital admissions of patients suffering from poor health care....., the increasing inadequacy of our primary health care systems....., and the increased migratory flow of our trained professional staff including medical and paramedical personnel."

He warned that unless the situation confronting the health sector is dealt with promptly and with imagination, "The

crisis.... will serve to negate all our collective achievements and deny us our confident hopes for the future."

Matters to be discussed at the two-day meeting include a review of the Caribbean Cooperation in Health Initiative, agreed to in Guyana four years ago. That initiative calls for authorities to give priority to seven areas, including maternal and child care, AIDS, and the environment.

Barbados Health Minister Branford Taitt said AIDS posed a problem which "threatens to retard the development of other aspects of our health care system." He said the health sector in the region was facing other problems, including the migration of nurses and economic constraints.

"Financial and human resources seem to be contracting while, spurred by their easy access to the international communications network, our population continues to expand their expectations," Taitt said.

The ministers are expected to vote on a proposed system of regional examinations for Caribbean nurses, and discuss a document related to the crisis confronting the nursing profession, whose members are migrating to better paying positions in the United States. The need for an expanded programme of immunization, disaster preparedness, and allied health training will also be examined.

Reports and budgets for regional agencies, including the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute, the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre, the Commonwealth Caribbean Medical Research Council, and the Caribbean Environment Health Institute will also be discussed during the two-day ministerial meeting.

Dominican Republic

Balaguer Stresses Need To Eliminate Subsidies

FL2007193090 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Jul 90

["Today's Topic" commentary entitled, "The Indispensable Price Hikes"]

[Text] President Balaguer yesterday reiterated the need to eliminate all or part of the subsidies that the government has on fuel, flour, and other basic goods. He also said that the price increases on these products will be applied along with measures that will increase the salaries and purchasing power of the middle and lower income sectors of the country.

These measures can no longer be delayed because it is impossible for the government to continue subsidies which increase inflation by increasing the amount of currency in circulation, which subsidies produce. It is a good idea to explain to the people that when the state subsidizes a certain product—fuel, for example—it has to be done by issuing currency which leads to an increase of currency in circulation. If a subsidy is awarded based on revenues, investments are reduced and unemployment is increased without decreasing the currency in circulation. Decreasing currency in circulation is the logical means of attacking inflation.

As a result, these price increases are indispensable to normalize the economic process and eliminate imbalances that harm the middle and low income sectors. The important thing is to eliminate these imbalances and to adopt measures so that these increases will no longer harm the already punished economy of the less-favored sectors of society.

Balaguer simply knows what to do for the benefit of the needy.

Balaguer Guarantees People's Right To Protest

FL2007165690 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Any organization in the country that wants to hold social demonstrations is completely free to do so since the Dominican people live in a democratic climate. President Joaquin Balaguer said this in response to questions from journalists regarding demonstrations staged by several people's and trade union organizations protesting future economic measures the president will apply. After guaranteeing that organizations will be able to proceed with their social activities, President Balaguer said that they should coordinate their activities without exerting pressure on trade, people living in the country, and within the framework of the law.

In regard to his inauguration on 16 August, the president said that this event will not create an economic hardship for the country since everything will be done with much austerity.

Grenada

Brathwaite, Brizan To Attend Caricom Summit

FL2007001090 Bridgetown CANA in English 2031 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, July 19, CANA—Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite will lead a five-member Grenada delegation to the forthcoming Caribbean Community (Caricom) heads of government summit in Jamaica later this month, well-placed sources said. Finance Minister George Brizan will be the other cabinet member on the delegation whose other members are Deputy Comptroller of Customs Eric Stewart, Director of Trade Vaughn Renwick, and Assistant Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Alice Thomas.

Brathwaite is planning to leave for Kingston, the Jamaican capital, on July 29. It will be the Grenadian leader's first Caricom summit as an elected representative. Brathwaite participated in a previous summit while he was head of the interim government that was installed

following the 1983 U.S. invasion of Grenada. He was appointed prime minister following the March 13 general elections.

Haiti

Trouillot Criticized for Isolating Herself

FL2007174090 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Excerpts] According to AHP, HAITIAN PRESS AGENCY, a source close to the State Council says no formal meeting has yet been possible with the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] acting as mediator. Indeed, no formal meeting was possible between the executive, the State Council, and the CEP on Tuesday, 17 July, said a source close to the State Council. As far as the members of the State Council who were present at the Villa d'Accueil [CEP headquarters] are concerned, no meeting has been held within the framework of the mediation that was primed by the CEP. The conditions asked for were not met, said this same source, and added that the head of the executive, who was invited to participate in that meeting, was represented by Foreign Minister Kesler Clermont, Justice Minister Pierre C. Labissiere and Commerce and Industry Minister Maurice Lafortune.

The Army, which was also supposed to participate in the meeting, refused. It told the organizers it would not be there because it was not willing to participate in any kind of meeting of a political nature.

Thus, the Army refuses to get involved in politics.

This same source added that the confused situation prevailing in Haiti was discussed by the State Council members, the CEP, and the three ministers present, in talks aside from the scheduled meeting, which did not take place. [passage omitted]

The political situation in Haiti deteriorated seriously when Dr. Roger Lafontant and Williams Regala returned to Haiti. Acts of banditry have increased and the peasants—particularly those of the Artibonite Valley, northern Haiti, and the Department of the Northwest—have made their cries of distress heard.

The parties within the Assembly for Concerted Action [AC] are divided, tearing one another apart. Some of them feel that Mrs. Ertha Pascal Trouillot has reneged on the protocol agreement that made her provisional president of Haiti and thus she can no longer serve as Haiti's guide. Others support the president and accuse the State Council of blocking the electoral process and having ulterior motives of political ambitions.

The State Council has several times demanded respect for principles and that a stop be put to the plundering of the public coffers. It has also asked for a bit of justice, a clean-up in public administration, and security to give the population confidence within the framework of the coming elections in Haiti.

Also, in its 14 July 1990 edition, the government daily L'UNION, in an article headlined "Ertha Pascal Trouillot, the Nongovernment", accuses the president of continuing to keep herself shut up inside a ghetto of private advisors, most of them relatives, who are making bad decisions that cause the nation to rise up in protest and embarrass both the president and the Council of Ministers, who are, most of the time, unaware of the acts of these improvised bosses.

That was a report carried by AHP in its latest bulletin dated 18 July.

Trouillot Respects 4 March Protocol Agreement

FL2007173990 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Provisional President Ertha Pascal Trouillot appears to have taken herself in hand, gotten control of herself, and decided to respect the 4 March 1990 protocol agreement, which she has asked to have published in the government's official gazette. An electoral council source told us yesterday afternoon that Mrs. Trouillot had just ordered that the full text of the 4 March 1990 agreement be published in LE MONITEUR, the government's official gazette. [passage omitted]

We also remind listeners that the publication of the full text of the agreement establishing the 4 March alternative was one of the conditions for resuming dialogue with the executive that the State Council and the Assembly for Concerted Action had asked to have met.

Lafontant Lawyers Say Warrant 'Null and Void'

FL2007175590 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Excerpts] There is still no solution to the crisis that arose in the government back on 21 May [date as heard], which has been aggravated by the government's inability to capture the pillagers and criminals whose dossiers are before the court. Meanwhile, there is also division among the population, over this Ertha-uproot-your-cassava-plants thing. [passage omitted]]

Let's take a look at what happened yesterday at the Law Courts in Port-au-Prince. [passage omitted]

Public Prosecutor Bayard Vincent is standing his ground. He said he is ready to issue as many warrants as necessary until the police catch Dr. Roger Lafontant, whom the public is accusing of being a torturer and who also is plotting against the security of the state. Vincent declares that the warrant he has issued against Lafontant is still valid. [passage omitted]

For their part, Lafontant's lawyers Fevry, Alezi, and Clersaint say the warrant issued against Lafontant is

illegal and null and void, because according to the law, only an examining magistrate is authorized to issue a summons to appear—enforceable by arrest—against a citizen, even if the citizen is caught plotting against national security or committing any other criminal act. After many verbal exchanges, arguments, protests, and contestations, Arnold Charles adjourned the hearing until next Friday. However, Mr. Charles did not provide clear answers to certain questions being asked by journalists, such as: Is the arrest warrant issued against Lafontant still being executed?

Meanwhile, Lafontant's lawyer, Mr. Fevry, declared that after the ruling handed down by Judge Fougere declaring null and void the first arrest warrant, Lafontant may move about freely in Haiti until another ruling is handed down. [passage omitted]

We must also report that a few of Lafontant's men, who were demonstrating in front of the Law Courts yesterday, assaulted two or three of our colleagues, among them Jean-Robert Fleury, who writes in the magazine BALANCE and the [government] daily paper L'UNION. The demonstrators also chanted slogans against the State Council and the public prosecutor.

More on Legal Proceedings

FL2007191290 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Despite threats against his life and the lives of his family, and despite the anonymous telephone calls he receives (?at) his family home in Saint-Marc, Public Prosecutor Bayard Vincent is determined to have Dr. Roger Lafontant arrested within the framework of the execution of the summons to appear, enforceable by arrest, that has been issued. Mr. Vincent has ordered all sitting and deputy justices of the peace to comply with all police requests. Serious legal sanctions will be applied against anyone failing to comply. [passage omitted]

The Lafontant affair was discussed yesterday at the civil court in Port-au-Prince. Michel Lubin was there. Here is his report.

[Begin recording] [Lubin] [passage omitted] To begin with, Dr. Lafontant's three lawyers, Osner Fevry, Lherisson Alezi, and Emmanuel Clersaint, as well as the public prosecutor went upstairs to the commercial chamber of the Law Courts to (?discuss) the matter anew. However, Mr. Fevry said that two of the three parties that he had cited the day before were absent: the commanding officer of the Military Department of the Metropolitan Zone [Col. Duperval] and the Armed Forces chief of staff [General Lacrete].

On the other hand, we noticed, present among the spectators at the second commercial chamber: Jean-Claude Bajeux, a high-ranking Conacom [National Congress of the Democratic Movements] official; agronomist Louis Dejoie II, president of the National Agricultural and Industrial Party, PAIN; Max Bourjolly, second in command of the Unified Party of Haitian Communists, PUCH; Jean Auguste Mesyeux of the Mesyeux/Manusi [Pierre] branch of the CATH [Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers]; as well as a number of other members of the political and union sectors.

Meanwhile two opposite camps came face to face in the commercial chamber of the Law Courts: the popular sector camp and the Lafontant camp. After all the babbling that went on at this chamber between these two (?camps), the two parties to the suit went down to the office of the doyen, which is not the court of summary jurisdiction as everyone thought.

According to Public Prosecutor Vincent, nowhere does the Code of Criminal Procedure specify how a summons to appear is to be issued. As far as the public prosecutor is concerned, this business of an executory mandamus, which Dr. Lafontant's lawyers are trying to claim the second warrant was, is far from correct. [passage omitted]

For his part, Osner Fevry, one of Lafontant's three lawyers, says that even though Judge Faustin Fougere has been sent into retirement, the public prosecutor did not have a right to issue a third warrant against Dr. Lafontant.

[Fevry, in French and Creole] [passage omitted] A judge issued a ruling. The judge has been sent into retirement, true. Nevertheless, the ruling stands. [passage omitted] What is this crooked wheeling and dealing by Public Prosecutor Bayard? We are not arguing politics here; we are arguing law. There is a ruling that says the warrant is no good. The prosecutor should not have, does not have the right, to issue another warrant. He pretended he did not understand and issued a third warrant. That is why...[fades out]

[Lubin] While this matter was being discussed in the doyen's office inside the Law Courts, a small group of approximately 30 young men was demonstrating outside with drums and banners in favor of Dr. Lafontant and against Public Prosecutor Vincent.

Meanwhile, the people who had applauded the public prosecutor inside the second commercial chamber were grouped inside the Law Courts.

After the doyen heard both sides, he ordered all evidence in the form of documents to be deposited with the court and adjourned the matter until next Friday. [passage omitted]

This is Michel Lubin, National Haitian Radio. [end recording]

Jamaica

Guilty Verdict Returned on Former Seaga Minister

FL1907233490 Bridgetown CANA in English 1739 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Kingston, Jamaica, 19 July, CANA—Former Jamaica Labour Minister J.A.G. Smith was found guilty

on Thursday [19 July] in the Kingston Criminal Court of conspiracy to defraud and six counts of receiving U.S. 70,000 dollars from the United States and Canadian Farm Work Programme. Resident Magistrate Donald McIntosh, who has been hearing evidence for nearly two months, read the guilty verdict five minutes after defence lawyer Frank Phipps completed his submissions.

Smith, 62, appeared stunned as the guilty verdict was read. His wife and daughter who were also present in court showed little emotion. He will be sentenced on Friday [20 July] and faces up to five years in prison. Smith, currently an opposition senator, committed the crimes while he was minister of labour from 1980-89 under former Seaga administration. [passage omitted]

The defence had sought to discredit the testimony of the main crown witness, retired Permanent Secretary Probyn Aitken. Aitken who served as permanent secretary under Smith, is now serving a nine month prison term arising from the same case.

Montserrat

BBC May Supply Radio Antilles Transmitter

FL2007004090 Bridgetown CANA in English 2052 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Report by Peter Richards]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, July 19, CANA—The Montserrat-based Radio Antilles, shut down almost a year ago, following withdrawal of its German funding, will resume broadcasts within the next three months, well placed sources said on Thursday [19 July]. The sources told the Caribbean News Agency (CANA) that "active negotiations" were taking place with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), which is to provide a new transmitter. They said that it was possible, depending on the negotiations, that the station, formerly funded by the West German Government, could be operational by August or by October.

"We are making every effort to get the station back on the air, we are having active negotiations with the BBC, and it is highly likely it will be fruitful," the sources told CANA.

The station, its AM/FM/shortwave transmitters severely damaged by Hurricane Hugo, was closed last December, after a quarter century of informing and entertaining the Caribbean. The West German owners—Deutsche Welle—had announced before the September hurricane that they would stop their funding programme by the end of 1989.

The Montserrat Government disclosed this year that it had acquired the radio station on behalf of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), which has been spearheading efforts to get Radio Antilles operational again. Under the OECS-Deutsche Welle agreement to acquire Radio Antilles, the sources said, there was a stipulation that the station must be operational by October 31, 1990, or revert to West German ownership.

According to the sources, the regional owners of Radio Antilles are trying to get the BBC to install a new transmitter to replace the one severely damaged by Hurricane Hugo. The sources said that if the negotiations are successful, then Radio Antilles would produce a "Caribbean Programme" for transmission on the station. The sources said it was possible that the BBC would provide an 80,000 kilowatt transmitter. Before its closure in December, Radio Antilles provided relay facilities for the Voice of America, the BBC, Deutsche Welle, and Radio Canada on its 200,000 kilowatt transmitter.

Last month officials of the BBC visited the radio station facilities in Plymouth and O'Garro, south of the capital, and held discussions with the interim board of directors, the sources said.

Attorney General Launches New Antidrug Program

PA2007143190 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Report by Juan Salazar Garcia from Ciudad Juarez]

[Text] The Attorney General's office has announced in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, the implementation of a new national antidrug program. Effective today, Ciudad Juarez became the temporary base for a brigade of antidrug agents from the Attorney General's office which will carry out a large-scale operation in rural areas throughout 57 municipalities in Chihuahua to locate and destroy poppy and marijuana crops.

Assistant Antidrug Delegate Jose Ponce Villa will be in charge of the operation. He said that the special group from the Attorney General's Office is part of a national program being carried out in all the states, particularly to wage a permanent struggle in the northern zone jurisdictions, including the states of Chihuahua, Durango, and Sinaloa. These states have been marked as important points in the drug traffic.

[Begin Ponce recording] Our job is to coordinate the aircraft operations with pilots, navigators, logistic support members, and some members of the Federal Judicial Police who have been specially appointed to the program. The program is called the Special Program for the Eradication of Marijuana 1990.

Look here. The Republic is divided into two zones. In the northern zone we have 18 aircraft, specifically 18 Bell 206 helicopters; four (word indistinct] aircraft to transport personnel; and five Cessnas for reconaissance operations. [end recording]

Government Revives 'Debt for Capital Program'

PA2007192990 Paris AFP in Spanish 1121 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Mexico City, 20 July (AFP)—The Finance Secretariat has announced that $1 billion in "swaps" (the exchange of debt for direct investment) have been auctioned to Mexican and foreign businessmen to help relieve Mexico's $92.240 billion foreign debt.

The swaps were auctioned to 27 bidders at the fixed rate of 52.02 percent and will pay off $860,000 of Mexico's foreign debt, since the original debt had already been reduced by 35 percent through the renegotiation that concluded in March, the secretariat added.

This was the first operation carried out under the so-called debt for capital program announced by the Finance Secretariat four months ago. The mechanism consists of purchasing Mexican debt warrants at secondary market prices to be sold in Mexico to private investors. In exchange, the government approves investment plans for various sectors.

The swap system was suspended at the end of 1988 because the Mexican Government felt that it increased inflation because it was being financed either with "primary currency issuances" or domestic debt investments. According to Finance Secretariat officials, the new plan "eliminates" the inflationary effects of the traditional swaps because the new debt warrants will be sold to state institutions that are in the process of being privatized and put into infrastructure investments, with the government's approval.

President Schedules Visit to Jamaica 31 July

PA2207021990 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Foreign Relations Secretary Fernando Solana has announced that President Carlos Salinas de Gortari will travel to Jamaica to promote integration between Latin America and the Caribbean. Solana said that relations with the countries in the Caribbean are a priority because of their strategic value. Therefore, President Salinas will meet on 31 July with some Caribbean presidents. Foreign Secretary Solana said that it is in Mexico's interest to substantially increase economic, commercial, and cultural exchanges with Caribbean countries.

Japanese Economic Planning Minister Ends Visit

PA2307035690 Paris AFP in Spanish 0126 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Jul (AFP)—Hideyuki Aizawa, director general of Japan's economic planning agency, left Mexico today after a three day visit aimed at strenghthening bilateral economic relations.

Aizawa met with his Mexican counterpart Ernesto Zedillo, who said at the airport—after bidding farewell to Aizawa—that the visit "will strengthen the steps taken by both countries" in matters pertaining to economic planning.

Aizawa said that he became familiarized with the "modernization" program "that is being promoted by the Mexican Government and also with the progress being made regarding economic stabilization" which will foster Japanese investments in Mexico.

Aizawa praised the ease with which foreign capital has been received by the government of Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari as well as the renegotiation of Mexico's foreign debt, which was completed this year.

Aizawa also met Pedro Aspe, finance and public credit secretary, Jaime Serra, commerce and industrial development secretary, and Foreign Relations Secretary Fernando Solana.

Japan "is willing to give Mexico the necessary economic assistance" so that it strengthens its economy, Aizawa told Mexican reporters at the airport.

During the administration of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who visited Japan from 16 to 20 June, Mexico

has intensified its relations with that country. Meanwhile, Japan has doubled its investments in Mexico, which will total $3.2 billion by the end of 1990, according to official reports.

During his visit, Aizawa was accompanied by a group of economic planning experts, who also participated in the second bilateral meeting of economic experts.

Navy Secretary Resigns; Replacement Named

PA1907173590 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Admiral Maurucio Scheleske Sanchez has resigned from his post as navy secretary for family reasons. Based on Article 89 of the Constitution, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has appointed Admiral Luis Carlos Ruano Angulo to replace him.

Admiral Ruano Angulo was born in Veracruz on 29 August 1927. He graduated from the Naval Military Academy as an engineer specializing in geography and is a Command and General Staff graduate of the War College. He is a military seaman accredited by his broad professional experience in operational, administrative, academic, and diplomatic work. He has also been inspector general for the Mexican Navy and president of the Navy Secretariat Board of Admirals. In addition, Admiral Luis Carlos Ruano Angulo has been an instructor at the War College and a naval attache at Mexican Embassies in the UK, France, the United States, and Peru.

First Ambassador to Chile Since 1974 Named

PA2207034790 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Mexican Ambassador to Chile Horacio Flores de la Pena presented his credentials to Chilean President Patricio Aylwin on 20 July, thereby resuming diplomatic relations between both nations. The ceremony was held at the Bernardo O'Higgins Room of the presidential palace at La Moneda in Santiago.

On 23 March, Mexico and Chile resumed diplomatic and consular relations which were broken off in November 1974 by the Mexican Government after it failed to recognize the military regime imposed after the coup d'etat on 11 September 1973.

President Appoints Ambassadors to USSR, FRG

PA2207034690 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0647 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Jul (NOTIMEX) - President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has appointed Juan Jose Bremer Martino as ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany and Carlos Tello Macias as ambassador to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The Foreign Relations Secretariat added that Jose Bremer replaces Adolfo Hegewisch, who was recently appointed as ambassador to Belgium and the European Community, while Tello Macias replaces Bremer, who has held that office in the USSR since April 1988.

El Salvador

Reportage on Progress of Costa Rica Negotiations

Ceremony for Talks Canceled

PA2007005090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2321 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] San Jose, 19 Jul (ACAN - EFE)—Costa Rican Foreign Ministry spokesmen have reported that the official ceremony to open the dialogue between the Salvadoran Government and guerrillas in San Jose tomorrow at noon has been canceled.

The sources said they do not know the reason for the cancellation of the ceremony, which was to presided over by Costa Rican Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus.

On 16 July, at the request of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), the initial site of the meeting was moved from a hotel on Costa Rica's Pacific coast, approximately 200 km west of San Jose, to this capital.

The Salvadoran Government and guerrillas will try to reach agreements in Costa Rica to end the more than 10-year-old war in El Salvador. During previous talks held in Venezuela and Mexico, ceremonies or meetings were also canceled to maintain the confidential nature of the dialogue.

Government on Talks With FMLN

PA2007145190 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1318 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] San Jose, 20 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria, who heads the government delegation [to the Salvadoran Government-FMLN talks], said yesterday that his government hopes to "come close to a cease-fire" at the meeting with the Salvadoran guerrillas to begin in Costa Rica today.

Santamaria expressed his willingness to discuss all the topics on the agenda, including the Armed Forces. However, he stressed that "it is necessary to begin negotiating a cease-fire, which should be implemented before 15 September."

The parties involved in the conflict will meet for the third time in an attempt to end the Salvadoran domestic war, which already has lasted more than 10 years and has caused the death of some 70,000 people.

Guerrilla leaders who arived in San Jose yesterday morning adopted an adamant position and insisted that there will be no cease-fire until the government agrees to "dismantle the repressive military apparatus."

Santamaria said that a possible guerrilla military offensive, to which rebel leaders have referred to in recent days, "could hinder the dialogue process."

He reiterated "the firm political willingness" of Alfredo Cristiani's government to reach agreements and expressed "moderate optimism" regarding the meeting that will begin today at 1100 (1700 GMT) and will end 23 July.

Col. Mauricio Vargas, the top military representative in the government's delegation, said that "there can be progress if there is political willingness." Vargas, who participated in a recent meeting in Mexico, added that "the main task now is eliminating unrealistic positions in order to progress," a reference to the guerrillas' demand for guarantees to accept incorporation into civilian life. "I would give my blood so the guerrillas could join society," Col. Vargas concluded.

Differences in Demands Examined

PA2007200490 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1912 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Report by Andreu Claret]

[Excerpts] San Jose, 20 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran guerrillas have demanded a purge of 10 percent of the Army officers and the dismantling of the so-called military and paramilitary "repressive corps" to agree to a cease-fire in the dialogue they opened today with the government in San Jose, Costa Rica. [passage omitted]

Jorge Shafik Handal, chief of the guerrilla delegation, said upon arriving in San Jose that "it would be senseless for us to agree to a cease-fire without guarantees that we will not be murdered." [passage omitted]

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) leaders seem to be obsessed by the example of Colombia, where many guerrillas have been killed after returning to civilian life. "We do not want democracy Colombia-style," Handal blurted out.

The two sides agreed to discuss the Army's future for the first time during the talks held in Oaxtepec (Mexico) but did not reach an agreement. According to the initial statements, this will again be a topic in the San Jose talks, which will continue until 24 July, along with human rights, all of which is closely connected to a probable signing of a cease-fire agreement in September. The FMLN has a list of 200 officers, which one of its leaders described as a "short list," supposedly implicated in murder, torture, and other violations of human rights. The rebel leaders have refused to present it to the meetings thus far and have instead asked the military members of the government delegation that they present a list of officers who could be retired by the Armed Forces.

"We agree to discuss the military topic, but the impunity that has existed in the country has not been enjoyed by the military only," said Colonel Mauricio Vargas, member of the official delegation who is regarded as one of the men in whom Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani has maximum confidence in the military, where he enjoys great prestige.

Vargas said that he is willing to "dismantle the clandestine structures that may exist" because, he said, "a democratic society does not need them." He acknowledged the guerrillas' concerns over their security when he emphatically said: "I will give my blood for them to rejoin society."

Nevertheless, for the time being the military has rejected the proposed purge, which is also supported by George Bush's government, as shown by the fact that it has issued a small list of approximately 50 officers.

"Commander" Ana Guadalupe Martinez, who is attending the meeting, pointed to "the U.S. pressure on the Army" as a "decisive" factor, attributing it to Washington's "need to change the Salvadoran Armed Forces to preserve its own interests." [passage omitted]

However, they have not called for an initial reduction of the Army's size, "so it cannot be said that we are attempting to gain a military advantage," "Commander" Martinez explained to ACAN- EFE.

Although considerable secrecy has surrounded the government and guerrillas' debate on the military issue, sources close to the talks say that Col. Vargas has admitted in principle the possibility of creating a new police force subordinate to civilian power. The source added that Vargas also seems open to the possibility of disarming the civil defense groups. [passage omitted]

"No topic will be excluded, but it is necessary to discuss the cease-fire," said Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria, head of the government delegation, shortly before the meeting began.

The debate on other political and social issues will continue concurrently, but on the condition, according to the FMLN, that agreements will be reached concerning the Army's future.

"Any agreement will remain in the freezer as long as decisions are not made concerning the Armed Forces," Handal warned.

D'Aubuisson Comments on FMLN

PA2107163390 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Interview with Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, founder of the governing Nationalist Republican Alliance, Arena, by unidentified journalist on 20 July; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [D'Aubuisson] The courts are handling this and legal procedures must be followed. We cannot pass judgment a priori. Remember that our Constitution clearly states that no one can be declared guilty until there is a trial by law.

Based on the evidence, I have the impression that some of these people will be found guilty. The crime has been condemned at the international level and by all Salvadorans. It has caused us much damage.

[Reporter] Do you think it has brought discredit to the Armed Forces?

[D'Aubuisson] No, it discredits the people involved. The Armed Forces, as an institution, does not carry out this type of action.

[Reporter] Do you think that a terrible reputation [words indistinct]?

[D'Aubuisson] I do not agree with those fancy words that you [words indistinct]. The Armed Forces has its system, its laws, and its codes to keep the institution clean, technically efficient, and professional. The size of the Armed Forces increases in wartime and decreases in peacetime.

[Reporter] According to a report from the government's Human Rights Commission, [words indistinct] an agreement between the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] and the government?

[D'Aubuisson] I beg your pardon, what did you say?

[Reporter] To disband the paramilitary forces.

[D'Aubuisson] When violence drops. There has to be the elimination of terrorism. I think that the so-called civic defense groups could dwindle as soon as the rebels stop attacking towns.

[Reporter] In Caracas, guerrilla leaders issued a communique in which they mention the possibility of Arena's carrying out a coup d'etat, and they also threaten a new guerrilla offensive. What do you think about this?

[D'Aubuisson] That they are crazy. There can be no coup here, much less from Arena. Such talk is part of a disinformation and psychological warfare campaign to confuse the people. I do not believe it will succeed.

[Reporter] What about the dialogue?

[D'Aubuisson] I think it is all right and that some important agreements will come out of it.

[Reporter] Are there differences between you and President Cristiani?

[D'Aubuisson] There are no differences. How can I have differences with President Cristiani when he is the man we must admire? The people of Arena are very grateful for the great job he is doing for the benefit of our fatherland.

[Reporter] Major, during your speech you said that the adopted measures were unpopular but nevertheless they had to be adopted. Why do you say they are unpopular if you belong to the party that promoted them?

[D'Aubuisson] I am realistic. I am not going to lie to myself. Those measures have hit my pocket also. The water and electricity bills had to be increased. It had to be done; otherwise we would run out of water. If the opposition wants to criticize these measures, I ask them

to present their own projects at the Assembly. The opposition remembers only the bad points, not the good points of these measures. They are working. There are jobs in the countryside, and this is very interesting. There is liveliness and commercial movement. Little by little we are getting out of the stagnant position in which the honorable [word indistinct] left us.

[Reporter] The government maintains the position that the Armed Forces are not negotiable.

[D'Aubuisson] It has never been accepted that the Armed Forces or the Constitution, nothing, are negotiable.

[Reporter] What is negotiable?

[D'Aubuisson] First, a cease-fire and the rebels joining civilian life. There has to be an agreement so that they start joining civilian life and the FMLN begins a gradual demobilization. The Armed Forces has its own plan to gradually reduce its size. The Armed Forces can retain troops dedicated to jobs such as forestry and road maintenance. This will be done when there is a real process, but it will not be done in one week. Once the FMLN people form a political party, the Armed Forces will begin to reduce its troops and reach a size adequate to its needs.

Cristiani Comments on Talks

PA2107215890 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Jul 90

["Part" of a news conference with President Alfredo Cristiani by unidentified reporters at the inauguration of a sports tournament at the Presidency on 21 July—recorded]

[Text] [Cristiani] There were only preparatory meetings yesterday afternoon to determine what topics will be discussed and to discuss our proposal to Alvaro de Soto that the meetings be more dynamic. We also officially filed a protest before the United Nations [words indistinct] of two Armed Forces officers. We believe that such terrorist actions and cowardly murders have nothing to do with military operations or anything like that. In fact, we regret that in one attack one officer's wife was seriously wounded.

The meeting has begun and there is not much report at this moment. Talks will resume this morning to delve into the topics.

[Reporter] There was talk yesterday of a break or small argument between the two parties. [Words indistinct] somewhat thorny issue leading to a quarrel?

[Cristiani] There was no topic... [changes thought] there was no quarrel; there was no break. The meeting aimed to make preparations and determine what topics will be discussed. There was no problem.

[Reporter] In his statemenets yesterday, Major D'Aubuisson said that certain issues will not be touched. He said that the Armed Forces and the Constitution will not be discussed; that they are not negotiable, however, [words indistinct]?

[Cristiani] I believe there has been a misinterpretation regarding whether the Armed Forces are negotiable. From the very start we have said that the existence of the armed institution is not negotiable. However, we did say that we could talk about the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the Armed Forces. That is different. However, the very existence of or the elimination of the Armed Forces has not been placed on the negotiating table by the government. We do not plan to discuss that issue.

Some people have misinterpreted this. Some are saying that certain issues cannot be discussed. That is not true; the only issue that is not on the negotiation table is the very existence of the Armed Forces. We have also clearly stated that we cannot stray from our laws, especially our Constitution, which is our basic law. Should there be amendments, they will have to be in keeping with the procedures mandated by the Constitution of the Republic. These are the restrictions that we have specified from the very beginning.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Cristiani] All those issues can be discussed. We are willing to discuss them as long as they benefit the country. We will analyze and take them into account in order to find ways to consolidate democracy and establish an atmosphere for reconciliation in our country.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Cristiani] Of course, that is the objective. The talks do not aim to mount a political propagandistic show as the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has tried to do in the past. For us, this is a serious endeavor. Our responsibility is to work toward attaining peace for the Salvadoran people. We want to end the armed confrontation, the total demobilization of the FMLN, and the incorporation of its members into the country's peaceful and civilian life. If those were not our objectives, the negotiation process would have no reason for being.

[Reporter] Mr. President, the FMLN is demanding amendments to the political Constitution [words indistinct]?

[Cristiani] The Constitution of the Republic specifies the procedures that must be followed to introduce amendments. Therefore, the government cannot negotiate the Constitution. We can only start a process to make amendments, but not negotiate the Constitution.

De Soto on First Day of Talks

PA2107043590 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Report by William Cespedez on a news conference by Alvaro de Soto with unidentified reporters from the Sheraton Herradura Hotel]

[Text] The first round of talks between the Salvadoran guerrillas and the Salvadoran representatives ended at 1800 after the parties established the procedures that will be followed during the next four days. Alvaro de Soto, representative of the UN Secretary General, said he hopes that some sort of accord will be reached during these talks, always complying with the schedule set in Caracas to attain the objectives to reduce the Armed Forces, guarantee respect for human rights, modernize the judicial and the electoral system, and reform the Constitution. Among the objectives agreed to in the Caracas peace talks are the resolution of the Salvadoran people's socioeconomic problems and having the United Nations verify compliance with the agreements. The guerrilla leaders as well as the Salvadoran Government have said that reaching an agreement on the cease-fire of hostilities is closely linked to the fulfillment of the mentioned aspects. The Salvadoran Government is represented by Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria.

During the first day of talks there has been an independent exchange of viewpoints between the UN Secretary General Representative and each of the delegations. The delegations attended a luncheon hosted by Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus, who reiterated the desire of the government of President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier and the Costa Rican people that these efforts to search for peace, to which Costa Rica is contributing, will be successful in bringing the Salvadoran people the peace for which they are longing.

As for the main aspects discussed during this first day of negotiations, mediator Alvaro De Soto, representative of the UN secretary general, said:

[Begin recording] [De Soto] I think we can describe the first day of this new journey as something of a warm-up stage. We hope to throughly discuss some matters tomorrow. After this long introduction, I could attempt to [words indistinct] respond to your questions.

[Moderator] Will you please announce your name and the media you represent, when your are posing your question?

[ACAN-EFE reporter] [Wprds indistinct] speak officially with the two delegations?

[De Soto] I want to tell you that the negotiation process, in acordance to the agreement signed in Geneva, should be held in the strictest confidence. However, this does not mean that there will be a total blackout [preceding word in English] regarding the contacts between the negotiating commissions and the press. One of the issues we have been discussing is the way to polish up these contacts with the media. I believe that the two negotiating commissions want to prevent the public considerations on the topics being negotiated—which are directly linked to the process—from having any adverse effect on the peace process itself. This is a matter we need to polish up. But, obviously, you will have daily contacts with me, although I am certain this will not [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] of the Salvadoran Government to the guerrillas' proposals that we are aware of?

[De Soto] You are really asking me to make an in-depth assessment on the negotiation, and I believe that would be premature at this moment. I regret having to answer to your questions in this manner.

[Reporter] Did you address any specific issue on the agenda today?

[De Soto] Yes, in general terms, we discussed several issues having to do with procedure; with the negotiation process. I believe it is important that you realize the procedure is nearly as important as the substance itself in this kind of negotiation. However, I am not saying that we only discussed procedural issues. We also discussed other issues, but not enough for me to tell you more.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[De Soto] That is an issue that I personally discussed with President Cristiani last week. Evidently, I share his wish that the initial objective will be attained within the calendar that was agreed upon in Caracas. This is a complex procedure that involves several issues. The negotiation does not consist of direct contacts only; there are other aspects.

For example, my mediation between the parties and the indirect role played by social organizations and political parties in the procedures. All this requires time and travel. I do not believe that time has been wasted on this. I believe that we are working at the pace indicated by the calendar. We should not worry whether we will be able to attain our objectives. Although the first day of negotiation was surrounded by uncertainty and mutual distrust, the parties will resume the agenda tomorrow and gain some ground. The guerillas have made positive statements to the effect that they will not break the negotiations during this round. [end recording]

Guerrilla leader Ana Guadalupe Martinez said that there will be progress, although they are certain that the Salvadoran problem will not be solved at this meeting. In her opinion, the negotiations will not be broken, because the two sides are obliged to stay at the negotiating table since this is the only option left to solve the Salvadoran problem.

As for the possible achievements of this negotiation, Martinez added that it is difficult to make a prediction without knowing the Salvadoran Government's reply to the proposals presented by the guerrillas in Mexico.

Meanwhile, Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria, the Salvadoran Government's representative, reiterated the political determination of the government of President Alfredo Cristiani to continue its efforts to achieve the final objetive of the Salvadoran people—that is, the attainment of peace as long as their country's institutional framework is respected.

These talks will continue tomorrow at 1000 and last until 23 July, unless an unexpected problem interrupts them, despite the fact that two parties have expressed their determination to stay at the negotiation table until the end.

De Soto Updates Negotiations

PA2107224990 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2004 GMT 21 Jul 90

["Part" of news conference by Alvaro de Soto, representative of the UN secretary general at the peace negotiations between the Salvadoran Government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, with unidentified reporters in San Jose on 21 July—live or recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Reporter]... according to the agenda regarding the calendar?

[De Soto] We are being flexible as far as the agenda is concerned. It is possible to move from one point to another in the agenda, but we are simply focusing our discussions on the Armed Forces issue this morning.

[Reporter] Can you say that progress is being made in the talks?

[De Soto] Progress? The truth is I do not know what you mean by progress. It is a difficult question to answer. We are making progress insofar as the different positions are being further clarified and insofar as the parties involved are having increasingly frank exchanges. There is still room for negotiation, and we are working toward reaching agreements. I would prefer to say that there is nothing until an agreement is reached, and it will still take a while to reach one. In my opinion, to measure progress in terms of centimeters, inches, or meters is not exactly appropriate.

[Reporter] I am Ricardo Gonzalez from [passage indistinct].

[Announcer, interrupting] At this moment, UN Secretary General Representative Alvaro de Soto is commenting on the results of the first day of meetings, during which the parties involved started discussing the points included in the agenda drafted by the Salvadoran guerrilla movement and Salvadoran President Cristiani's government in Caracas.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] to negotiate the cease-fire for example, the issue of the Army's demilitarization also includes the demilitarization and [word indistinct] of the FMLN. Have you discussed that point?

[De Soto] If you examine, and perhaps it would be a good idea for you to do so, the agreement reached in Caracas, you will see that the agreement establishes that in this meeting we should discuss the issue of the political agreements within the framework of the initial objective—in other words, political agreements leading to a cease-fire. The other issue you mentioned, the demobilization, should be discussed during the second phase—in other words, after the initial objective is attained.

[Reporter] [Name indistinct] from ACAN-EFE. President Cristiani just [passage indistinct]?

[De Soto] With due respect to the statements attributed to President Cristiani, I would like to say that he is in San Salvador and his views are probably based on what the members of his delegation inform him. I believe that insofar as the issue you mentioned is included in the general agenda and process then what President Cristiani said is not completely incorrect. The truth is that the official spokesman of the process of negotiations, the one who is supposed to provide official and reliable information, I hope, on what is happening during the meetings and at the place where the meetings are taking place is me.

[Reporter] In San Salvador it was said that the commission [not further specified] was going to propose a [word indistinct] negotiation here. [Passage indistinct]

[De Soto] We are doing all we can to expedite the negotiation process, which, as I said yesterday, is dealing with various channels that require more or less long periods of time between each direct negotiation. I, however, believe that the main thing is not so much the time that is spent on each issue. I believe that it would only take a few days to draw up the agreements. And I do not think I am being too optimistic. The negotiators' political resolve, however, is more important than the time they spend during the negotiations. Their political resolve is the most important thing.

FMLN Says Government 'Rightist'

PA2107232390 Paris AFP in Spanish 2200 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] San Jose, 21 Jul (AFP)—The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) of El Salvador accused the government of Alfredo Cristiani today of assuming positions that are "increasingly rightist by refusing to engage in an in-depth discussion on the demilitarization of society."

"On this occasion, the government is maintaining positions that are further to the right," rebel leader Nidia Diaz told reporters after the second day of talks ended without any agreements at a hotel on the outskirts of the Costa Rican capital.

Diaz said that the Cristiani government presented a counterproposal on demilitarization that "frames the entire problem within the parameters of the Constitution."

The FMLN has maintained, since the previous round of talks in May in Mexico, its demand that the government eliminate the death squads that are allegedly under the military apparatus, punish those responsible for the murder of numerous Catholic priests and popular leaders, and gradually reduce the size of the Army.

Under such conditions, the guerrillas on 25 September would call a cease-fire to negotiate a definitive disarmament by mid-1991, after other political agreements

regarding the electoral code, justice system, and democratization aimed at ending the armed conflict that has lasted 10 years are reached.

However, according to the insurgents, the slowness of the discussions makes it "virtually impossible" to reach a cease-fire agreement by September.

Diaz added that the government delegation, headed by Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria and Colonel Mauricio Vargas, "has come to San Jose with a forceful stand that is in keeping with the statements made in San Salvador by Cristiani and retired Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, the main leader of the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena).

The two leaders said that the existence of the Armed Forces is not negotiable and that the talks with the guerrillas cannot stray away from the Constitutional framework.

Cristiani said that the guerrillas' demobilization should be discussed in San Jose, but said nothing about purging the Armed Forces or respect for human rights.

Alvaro de Soto, UN mediator and official spokesman of the talks, was less skeptical than the insurgents today regarding the negotiation.

"This is a long and difficult process" and everthing is moving along "as expected," he pointed out.

The direct talks between the guerrillas and government will continue tomorrow. Meanwhile, De Soto will maintain contacts with both sides today.

As for the statements by Cristiani, De Soto said that "it is not quite correct" to say that we are discussing the FMLN's demobilization here."

Counterproposal on Armed Forces

PA2207020590 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0105 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] San Jose, 22 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran Government delegation that is participating in peace negotiations with the guerrillas that began in Costa Rica yesterday, believes that progress has been made in the meetings held so far and announced today that it has presented a proposal regarding the Army.

"There has been advancement, not retrogression," Salvadoran Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria, head of the government delegation, said in response to criticism voiced by the guerrillas to the effect that the government had moved backward in its positions with regard to the previous meeting in Mexico last month.

This was the first public appearance made by the Salvadoran Government representatives since this round of talks began.

Santamaria confirmed that the government has presented a "counterproposal" regarding the Armed Forces, in response to the demand for a purge of officers and the dismantling of certain military corps presented previously by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

However, the minister declined to reveal the details of the proposal, using as a pretext the priniciple of "confidentiality" that prevails at the meetings.

The minister emphasized that "the only limit (in discussions of the Army's future) is that the Armed Forces will not be disbanded."

"We have agreed to talk about reforms and the restructuring of the Armed Forces, setting as the only limit that the institution will not be dismantled," Santamaria said, adding "the very existence of the institution is not at risk."

The government delegation, comprised of several high-ranking officers, began a new round of negotiations with an FMLN delegation yesterday, under the auspices of the United Nations.

According to Santamaria, in the current phase of the talks, which began in Caracas (Venezuela) in May, "an attempt is being made to discuss the cease-fire and all actions that violate the civilian population's rights."

He explained that his government is not seeking demobilization of the FMLN at this point, but rather an "armed peace" in which both the Army and the guerrillas would conserve their current troop strength and their weapons.

Asked about the guerrillas' charge that the government wants the FMLN to agree to a cease-fire before discussing other points on the agenda, such as respect for human rights, constitutional amendments, reform of the Electoral Branch, and a social and economic pact, Santamaria said that several topics can be discussed "simultaneously."

The meeting will resume tomorrow at approximately 1000 (1600 GMT), after a mass celebrated by the archbishop of San Jose, Monsignor Roman Arrieta Villalobos.

FMLN: 15 Sep Deadline Unrealistic

PA2107210190 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1935 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] San Jose, 21 July (DPA)—A spokesman for the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) said today in San Jose that his organization thinks the 15 September deadline established as the end of the negotiations process between the Salvadoran Government and guerrillas is an an illusion.

Miguel Angel Saenz, a member of the insurgents' political/diplomatic commission, said that even if a cease-fire were agreed upon during this third round of negotiations, "it would be impossible to conclude the conflict within a short term."

"The FMLN has proposed a calendar according to which the process will fully end in November 1991," Saenz

said, venturing the opinion that it is not very likely that any agreements will be reached at this meeting.

The Salvadoran Government representatives, headed by Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria, and the FMLN delegation, headed by Commander Jorge Shafik Handal, began their second day of talks in an atmosphere devoid of optimism concerning the possibility of reaching agreements that will end the 10-year-old war that has taken 70,000 lives in the Central American country.

"We do not believe that agreements will be reached now, but the talks are important," the rebel spokesman explained. "It is the first time that the Army has agreed to discuss its future which is, in itself, a step forward."

The country's demilitarization and the restructuring of the Armed Forces is the topic that the two sides will attempt to discuss today, with the mediation of UN envoy Alvaro de Soto.

"This is the key point," Saenz said. "When we reach an agreement concerning the demilitarization, the other issues will be easily resolved."

Meanwhile, the Salvadoran Government representatives remained silent and will continue avoiding the reporters who have gathered at the Horseshoe Sheraton hotel, headquarters of the talks, approximately 15 km north of San Jose.

According to reports released this morning, the talks will be extended until 25 July, although they were scheduled to conclude on 24 July, because the negotiations process has been particularly slow and difficult.

It was also disclosed that Msgr. Roman Arrieta, archbishop of San Jose, will visit with the negotiators on 22 July to encourage them to reach agreements during this round of talks. "That conflict must not continue, it makes no sense, and both sides must make an effort to be understanding to achieve peace," the prelate said.

More on Statements by FMLN

PA2107213290 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1950 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] San Jose, 21 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—A Salvadoran rebel spokesman said in Costa Rica today that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) demands that the demilitarization of El Salvador be negotiated because without it all agreements would be a "dead letter."

The Marxist FMLN has been meeting with the rightist Salvadoran Government in Costa Rica since yesterday under the auspices of the United Nations to try to end a decade of armed confrontations that have caused the deaths of 70,000 people.

Miguel Saenz, member of the FLMN political-military commission, told ACAN-EFE today that the rebels "demand" the negotiation of the country's demilitarization mainly because "without it anything else upon which we may reach agreements is dead letter."

Saenz said that the guerrilla representatives will not discuss any other issues until the discussion about the Salvadoran Armed Forces is exhausted.

Saenz indicated that as long as a cease-fire agreement is not reached "we have a right to conduct whatever armed actions are necessary under the state of war."

Miguel Saenz added: In fact, "we are prepared militarily," because not to be so would be "irresponsible."

Saenz stressed that the FMLN is "a political, military organization" that wants to negotiate, "but if we cannot negotiate anything, we are not going to do anything."

He admitted that because of the complexity of the Salvadoran conflict, he does not expect any definitive agreements to be reached in the current talks.

The guerrilla movement is aware that if a cease-fire agreement is reached, it would be impossible to implement it overnight.

As for the apparent paradox between the negotiations in San Jose and the armed confrontations occurring in El Salvador, Saenz said that this is part of the "Salvadoran logic." In El Salvador, violence has been the only tool that has opened roads to a political dialogue.

Saenz added: Proof of this is that the offensive in November 1989 paved the way for the resumption of negotiations in Geneva, Mexico, Venezuela, and Costa Rica.

Saenz believes that the most significant achievement of these talks is that the Salvadoran Armed Forces agreed to discuss its future with the FMLN at the meeting in Mexico.

Rivera y Damas Homily Comments on Dialogue

PA2307020390 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2056 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Jul (NOTIMEX)—San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas said today that "internal peace is at stake" in the case of the Jesuits murdered by alleged Army members last November.

During his regular Sunday homily, the Catholic priest also said that during the peace talks the Salvadoran Government and the guerrilla movement should reach basic agreements before agreeing on a cease-fire.

Msgr. Rivera y Damas said: "The Jesuits' case should be solved because not only internal peace, but also harmonious coexistence with the other countries, which have seen that justice is not done in this case, is at stake."

Rivera y Damas said also that "the government's and the Armed Forces' credibility depends" on the Jesuits' case, "because as long as they do not help to solve the case, their credibility will be in question."

On 20 July, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation front [FMLN] accused President Alfredo Cristiani of being "politically responsible" for the Jesuits' murder and warned that if the case is not solved the negotiations could be blocked.

Rivera y Damas echoed the statement made by the Society of Jesus that the military men involved in the multiple murders "are obstructing the truth and are creating confusion instead of helping to solve the case."

As for the FMLN's demand that agreements related to the Armed Forces should be reached before a cease-fire is agreed upon, the prelate admitted that the military issue "is not an easy one," but he stated that "it is necessary to reach agreements on it in order to move toward a cease-fire."

After expressing "moderate optimism" regarding the results of the round of talks that is being held in San Jose, Costa Rica, Msgr. Rivera y Damas urged President Alfredo Cristiani not "to turn" the Salvadoran Constitution "into an absolute law." Rivera y Damas said that "as any law, the Constitution can be amended; therefore, it should not be turned into an absolute."

President Alfredo Cristiani and the Army High Command have reiterated that they will not negotiate any issue that surpasses the limits established by the constitution.

Rivera y Damas indicated that the obstacles facing the current round of talks "are part of the dialogue process," but he added that the current government proposal "is more limited than the previous one."

Government Says New Offensive Would End Talks

PA2207193890 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1756 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] San Jose, 22 Jul (DPA)—Oscar Santamaria, chief of the Salvadoran Government delegation that is holding peace talks with the rebels, said today that a new military offensive by the Salvadoran guerrillas would put an end to the peace process.

Santamaria, who is the justice minister of El Salvador, said that if the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] launches an offensive like the one they launched in November of last year, it would be impossible to continue the negotiations, "not because we would not want to, but because there would not be the necessary climate for it."

This was the Salvadoran official's answer to statements made by FMLN spokesmen who said that the guerrillas reserve the right to carry out offensive operations at any time and to any extent as long as there are no advances in the negotiations with the government and no agreement for a cease-fire.

At the end of a peace homily given this morning by San Jose Archbishop Monsignor Roman Arrieta, both the chief of the government delegation and FMLN spokesman Jorge Shafik Handal reiterated their belief that the agreements reached during this new round of negotiations will not be substantial.

Santamaria said: "We believe we can reach agreements between now and Tuesday [24 July], but they will not be substantial. What we seek in this meeting is to consolidate the process."

For his part, rebel commander Shafik Handal said: "We are optimists by definition, but I cannot say we have advanced. We will have to wait until Tuesday."

The FMLN delegates said that the government's proposal regarding the Armed Forces is essentially the same the Cristiani government presented at the Oaxtepec, Mexico, meeting in June. "It is not true that a silver bridge has been laid down for us, as (Major) Roberto D'Aubuisson said in San Salvador," Handal said.

However, Colonel Mauricio Vargas, Army representative in the government delegation, admitted that the Army would be willing to retire some officers involved in human rights violations, which seems to be one of the FMLN's demands.

The government and FMLN delegates have been meeting since Friday in a hotel on the outskirts of San Jose, seeking agreements around an agenda that includes the purging of the Armed Forces, respect for human rights, and the socioeconomic problems of the country, among other topics.

Although the parties have maintained a strict reserve regarding the concrete points of discussion due to a protocol signed last year in Geneva, both the government and FMLN delegates believe that the process is not advancing with the desired speed and that the 15 September deadline foreseen for a cease-fire is not realistic.

For his part, the archbishop of San Jose called on the parties to reach agreements in this round of negotiations for the benefit of the Salvadoran people, "who are dying and suffering because of the war."

The head of the Costa Rican Catholic Church proposed to the negotiators that respect for the speakers be maintained, that truth be sought in discussion, that there be flexibility and reluctance toward intransigence, and that they be humble in the dialogue.

Cristiani Said To Have 'Responsibility' in Crime

PA2107040390 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0008 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Jul (NOTIMEX)—The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] today accused President Alfredo Cristiani of having "political responsibility" in the killing of six Jesuit priests. The guerrillas also accused Armed Forces Chief of Staff Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce of being the "mastermind" behind the crime.

The FMLN has issued a communique warning that if the Jesuit case is not resolved, "the negotiations are morally and politically blocked."

On 16 November 1989, six Jesuit priests and two women were murdered at the Central American University during an FMLN offensive.

According to the FMLN, the recent statement by President Cristiani that three days before the crime he had authorized a search of the university "makes evident that Cristiani himself either participated in the decision or induced others." [sentence as received]

The FMLN noted that "Colonel Ponce and other high-ranking military commanders are reportedly behind the crime." The FMLN said that "the confession that he ordered the search has given President Cristiani political responsibility in the crime."

The rebel organization expressed its hope that during the third round of negotiations in San Jose, Costa Rica, between the government's delegation and the FMLN's delegates, "the government will show that the case will be resolved."

Eight months after the crime, the main defendant, Colonel Alfredo Benavides, has said that it was the military high command, not him, as it was believed until now, who ordered the search.

During a 12 July news conference, Cristiani admitted that he authorized the Armed Forces staff to conduct the search but denied having anything to do with the crime.

The FMLN noted: "In any democratic country, the political implications that the involvement of the high command and of the president himself would be more than enough reason to call for their resignation and even for their dismissal."

The rebel leadership stated that "under this condition, the will to negotiate that the government allegedly has, has no credibility."

The rebel document was issued here. Meanwhile, in San Jose, Costa Rica, the government and FMLN delegations have reinitiated the negotiations process to end the armed conflict in El Salvador, a conflict that has lasted more than 10 years.

FMLN Comments on Jesuit Case

PA2107212190 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 2220 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, General Command in El Salvador on 19 July]

1. We hope that in the San Jose meeting the government demonstrates that the Jesuits case will truly be resolved and not continually put off and forgotten. Solving this crime constitutes a national and international demand. It is imperative that the government solve this crime. If this case is not resolved, the negotiations are morally and politically blocked.

2. We demand that the government suspend its policies of waging war, confrontations, and repression so that it will be possible to achieve political agreements needed for a cease-fire. Under the present conditions, the alleged willingness to negotiate shown by the government has no credibility.

General Command of the FMLN, El Salvador

19 July 1990

FMLN Expresses Concern on Release of Colonel

PA2207031490 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0027 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] [Words indistinct] what is worrisome are the most recent events surrounding the trial of the men involved in the Central American University massacre.

The log book of the Army Military School has suddenly appeared. According to what the investigations have confirmed, the log book had disappeared and been destroyed. The miraculous reappearance of the book has resulted in the release of Lieutenant Colonel Emilio Hernandez. In addition, there are signs indicating that Colonel Benavides will also be released.

Thus far, the only evidence against Benavides is the statements made by other soldiers involved in the massacre, and as you know, our corrupted and anachronistic judicial system does not consider the accusations made by other people involved in the crime as valid evidence.

If Benavides is not punished, those who gave the orders to carry out the massacre will not be punished either. Almost all of the Salvadorans and the foreigners involved in the investigation of the massacre are sure that Benavides is guilty. He committed the crime and the High Command is the mastermind behind it.

The evidence that has been gathered by independent investigations, including the Motley Commission report, is overwhelming. It seems, however, that we are heading toward the consolidation of the reign of impunity. Within this context, Alfredo Cristiani's statements that he is willing to attain peace as soon as possible sound empty. Those statements [words indistinct] are what the government says and does.

[Words indistinct] table of negotiations, but the truth is that the current events are making the road to peace increasingly difficult.

Cristiani Asks Jesuit Case Not Be Politicized

PA2107190390 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 19 Jul 90 p 33

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani asked political parties yesterday not to politicize the case of the assassination of the six Jesuit priests and their two maids.

Instead, the president suggested that if the political parties know any details, names, or clues regarding the possible suspects in this case, they should report it to the authorities.

Cristiani considers that in this way the political parties would be helping to clarify the murder case without taking political advantage of it. Only then can the guilty be punished, he added.

The following is an official communique:

"The Government of the Republic of El Salvador hereby requests the cooperation of the Salvadoran and international political parties so that they abstain from politicizing the case of the assassination of the Jesuit priests, which is being investigated by the Fourth Penal Court judge. This seeks to avoid speculation and public statements that, instead of helping to find out the truth, would create confusion and hinder the investigations. On the contrary, the government would appreciate it if any evidence or information that may help to clarify this case is submitted to the pertinent judicial authorities. This is the only way to avoid taking advantage of the deceased and to help discover and punish those guilty," the official communique concludes.

FMLN Reports Meeting With Soviet Diplomats

PA2107155590 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1435 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] San Jose, 21 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran guerrilla movement last night reported that guerrilla members met with Soviet diplomats at the UN Headquarters in New York last week. At this meeting, the guerrillas explained their point of view about the peace negotiations under way with the rightist Salvadoran Government.

Commander Jorge Shafik Handal, head of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) delegation in the talks that began in Costa Rica yesterday, told ACAN-EFE that the contact with the Soviets was made in their capacity as members of the UN Security Council.

The United Nations is sponsoring the talks between the FMLN and the Salvadoran Government which began in Geneva in April and continued in Venezuela, Mexico, and are now in Costa Rica.

Handal did not identify the Soviet officials they talked with but added that the FMLN also met with diplomats of the United Kingdom, France, and other UN Security Council members.

The rebel leader described the recent USSR declaration supporting the peace negotiations as positive and "a contribution to peace."

On Wednesday [18 July], the Salvadoran Government disclosed that Yuriy Pavlov, a representative of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, had "categorically" told Salvadoran Foreign Minister Manuel Pacas that his country supports a peaceful solution to the war conflict, a conflict that is already more than 10 years old and has claimed the lives of 70,000 people.

U.S. Pledges Concerning Democracy Debated

PA2207042990 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. policy claims to back peace processes in the region, but it continues to finance the darkest warmongering forces in our fatherlands. We wonder what side the U.S. Government is on. There are a number of developments that make us believe with much certainty that the line followed by U.S. administration is not quite the line of peace.

For example, on 17 July Federal Bureau of Investigation agents captured Salvadoran Army desertor Cesar Joya Martinez in the United States. As you might recall, Joya Martinez, a member of the death squads of the First Infantry Brigade, deserted from the Army last year and traveled to the United States, where he implicated top military leaders in horrendous crimes against civilians.

His statements are based on information that can be confirmed, because he revealed names, places, and dates. Therefore, this data has a high value as evidence. We must never forget that the former death squad member never denied his involvement in the crimes that he revealed.

He detailed the structure of the death squads that are under the First Infantry Brigade and confirmed that these murderous grcups are operating under the responsiblity of this unit's top commanders. In this specific case, under Colonels Orlando Cepeda and Elena Fuentes.

The information revealed by Joya Martinez caused great commotion within and outside our country at the time. This warranted at least some kind of investigation by our judicial system. However, there was nothing, because in our country the impunity of the military men is more powerful than the judicial system itself.

At any rate, it would have been strange for our judicial branch to act upon this.

We were surprised by the attitude of the U.S. Government. Joya Martinez went to the United States to request political asylum, because obviously his life was in danger after having said what he did. The United States not only denied him political asylum, but has now arrested him and is threatening to extradite him. We are not saying that Joya Martinez should not be held responsibile for

his role in the crimes he revealed, but that the U.S. Government has a first-hand source of information on the specific destination of the military aid it grants to the Salvadoran Armed Forces.

If it were true, as Bernard Aronson, assistant secretary of state for Inter-American affairs, has said in our country that the U.S. Government is genuinely interested in stopping human rights violations in El Salvador, on the part of the Army that they, by they way, are financing, then it would have bothered to pay attention to what desertor Joya Martinez said. We must not forget that he was only heeding the orders of his bosses who are still free and killing people.

In view of this situation, we wonder: What side is the U.S. Government on? That country claims to be on the side of democracy and respect of human rights. However, that is what it is saying. In practice, its actions, such as the gag imposed on Joya Martinez and the approval of aid for the murderers, places it on the side of antidemocracy and crime.

Zamora on D'Aubuisson, Interparty Commission

PA2207041290 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Italicized passages are recorded]

[Text] Ruben Zamora, leader of the Social Christian Peoples Movement [MPSC] has said that Roberto D'Aubuisson [Nationalist Republican Alliance, Arena, leader] is against demilitarization because he fears losing political privileges gained over the years.

[Zamora] *It is obvious that Major D'Aubuisson is downplaying the impact of this concept because it clearly points at him. He has been the one of the main leaders of repression in this country.*

The MPSC leader said that Major Roberto D'Aubuisson has disclosed once more his lack of political resolve by insisting that the Armed Forces issue is not negotiable. According to Zamora, the demilitarization of society is not a whimsical concept adopted by the leftists.

[Zamora] *He has reached the level where he is now because there is militarization in the country, and he knows that he has to give in. If this country is demilitarized, people like D'Aubuisson will no longer have the power that they have enjoyed up to now, based on terror and threats. By making these types of statements in public, D'Aubuisson only tends to lower the level of political dialogue in our country.*

Ruben Zamora warned that the statements of the Arena leader could affect the work of the Interparty Commission. This is why he has asked the commission to make a greater effort to come up with a timely proposal before the talks between the government and the guerrillas are over.

[Zamora] *I believe that if the Interparty Commission does not step up its actions and be more aggressive in the negotiations, it will come up with its resolutions eight days after the peace treaties are signed.*

Taking this into consideration, one of the obstacles to be solved is the slow pace of the Interparty Commission's meetings. Oppositions leaders have said on other occasions that as long as the Arena delegates do not sign the agreements reached, the consensus and efforts will not contribute to advancing the dialogue process.

FMLN Questions Who Has Political Resolve

PA2207032490 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0023 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Here we have a report sent by the residents of San Miguel City. The report says that early in the morning of 5 July the bodies of three people murdered in the best of the death squads style were found in that city. According to the report, the bodies were found in different parts of San Miguel City. The body of a 30-year-old man was found in Santa Julia neighborhood. The body of a pregnant woman and of an old man were found in the 15 September neighborhood. These bodies were found next to the bodies of their children who were also murdered by paramilitary groups at the service of institutionalized terrorism.

Our people are no longer shocked at this type of scene, because it is part of the daily life in our homeland. What is indeed surprising, however, are the statements made by some high-ranking Salvadoran Army officers. They have stated that while everybody is struggling for peace in our homeland, the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] refuses to make progress in the process to attain a political solution to the conflict.

A few days ago we listened to some statements made by Air Force Commander General Rafael Antonio Villamariona who said that only the FMLN wants war and that everybody else is struggling for peace. Gen. Villamariona accuses us of not having any political resolve. As this Gen. Villamariona makes his pompous statements, the wave of strikes conducted by various labor groups in our country threatens to spread even further because of Alfredo Cristiani's coercive economic policies. As Villamariona makes his statements, cooperative members are denied loans to finance their crops and human right violations, like the one we described earlier, continue to take place.

In view of that situation, we wonder: Who is lacking the political resolve to attain peace? Is the FMLN dislodging peasants from the lands that were given to them by the Agrarian Reform? No, you know that that is not true. The FMLN is not the one refusing to meet with the Interstate Commission to try to meet the cooperative workers' demands. The FMLN is not the one persecuting political party members. The FMLN is not the one organizing Civil Defense groups that kill youths during funerals.

It is time for the Salvadoran Government, the Armed Forces, and Washington to listen to the people's demands; to adopt an attitude in favor of peace; and to stop using the

negotiations as a forum for propaganda. It is time they stop using the second guerrilla offensive as an excuse to avoid making commitments. Using the words Villamariona used: That tactic is absolutely worn out.

Armed Forces Condemns Murder of Officers

PA2107193390 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 19 Jul 90 pp 3, 15

[Text] The High Command of the Salvadoran Armed Forces has charged that Captain Aristides Reyes' murder is another maneuver conducted by the terrorist groups of the FMLN-FDR [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front] to end their peace talks with the Salvadoran Government.

According to an official statement, "the Armed Forces High Command considers it necessary to make the following statements regarding the irrational and unjust murder of Cap. Ramon Aristides Reyes Hernandez and the serious wounds inflicted upon his wife by the FMLN-FDR terrorist groups:

"1. We strongly condemn the murders of Major Carlos Figueroa Morales and Capt. Reyes Hernandez by the FMLN-FDR as serious human rights violations. These cowardly actions are part of the FMLN-FDR's absurd and violent strategy to pressure the government into breaking off any sort of dialogue or negotiations to further harmony and peace.

"2. We highlight the irrationality and immorality of these murders and the terrorists' public acceptance of them. These actions are being carried out when Salvadorans are promoting a climate of harmony and points of agreements to be able to reach political agreements that will allow us to end the armed strife.

"3. We state that those who ordered and carried out these irrational and immoral actions so that they could be cynically confessed at a later date are to be condemned by all sectors. These are obvious examples of the impunity 'enjoyed' by the FMLN terrorist groups, protected in their clandestinity.

"4. It is greatly disturbing that FMLN members, hiding in the anonymity of terror and death, and continuing with their hypocritical and cowardly strategy of pressure and blackmail, can commit other equally immoral and serious crimes, blaming them on someone else. They do this to create greater confusion in Salvadoran society and the international community.

"5. We must bear in mind that anyone using a strategy of this type, shielding itself in anonymity, is likely to commit a series of crimes against anyone. Besides, this conduct in no way leads to lasting peace in El Salvador.

"6. In view of the above, the Armed Forces deeply lament the cowardly murder of the previously named military officers. It is imperative to reiterate our most energetic condemnation of these crimes to the noble Salvadoran people and the international community. The Armed Forces want the world to know who these people are who are capable of coldly and treacherously committing this type of premeditated murder. They could easily continue to commit these and other equally dastardly crimes, seeking to create greater confusion among the citizenry.

"The Salvadoran Armed Forces, in their grief, express their unconditional support to the supreme government of the Republic to continue in its firm purpose of reaching the peace so cherished by the Salvadoran people."

Armed Forces Reports Recent Guerrilla Casualties

PA2107044490 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0320 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] The Armed Forces reported today that six guerrillas were killed and that war materiel was seized during actions that took place in the past few hours. A report says that Atonal Battalion troops killed six insurgents and wounded seven others during a clash in Jucuapa Jurisdiction, Usulutan Department.

The Armed Forces added that a guerrilla was wounded during a clash with 3d Brigade troops that were patrolling the outskirts of Lolotique, San Miguel Department. According to the Armed Forces, more than 20 mines and abundant material for manufacturing explosives were seized after the clashes.

8 Casualties Reported During Clashes

PA2107211290 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1905 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] San Salvador, 21 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—While the Salvadoran Government and guerrillas continued peace talks in Costa Rica, clashes between rebels and military forces today in three Salvadoran departments have caused eight casualties on both sides, a military source reported today.

The Armed Forces Press Committee (Coprefa) said that three rebels died and one was wounded during clashes with soldiers in Dulce Nombre de Maria, Cinquera, and Villa Victoria, in the departments of Chalatenango and Cabanas, in the northern part of the country.

The report added that four soldiers were wounded when the vehicle in which they were traveling was ambushed on a road in El Congo, Santa Ana Department, 50 km west of San Salvador.

The clashes took place amid the talks that began yesterday in San Jose between delegations from the Salvadoran Government and guerrillas. The talks, being held with mediation from the United Nations, are aimed at ending a decade of war that has caused more than 70,000 deaths.

The main topic of the talks is the demilitarization of the Salvadoran society, ending military impunity, reducing the Army, and the democratization of El Salvador.

Group Reports Honduran Army Entry Into Territory

PA2107163690 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] The Foundation for the Community Development of El Salvador [Patronato para el Desarrollo Comunal de El Salvador—Padecoi] has reported constant incursions by the Honduran Government into Salvadoran territory. According to Padecoi, [five-second break in reception] this situation, asking pertinent authorities to watch the border with Honduras because the army of that country claims its control of certain undelimited areas is legal.

Meanwhile, the Honduran Armed Forces denied that their troops entered El Salvador last weekend, as the FMLN reported. The Salvadoran guerrillas also reported that a peasant was killed during the incursion. A Honduran military spokesman said that the FMLN makes this kind of report as part of its political strategy every time it resumes the dialogue with the Salvadoran Government.

The source added that neither the Honduran Army nor the Salvadoran Army has reported this incursion, which the FMLN announced over the clandestine station Radio Venceremos.

On the contrary, the spokesman added, the FMLN is upset because several of its secret hideouts in Honduras have been dismantled.

On other occasions, Honduran civilians, including some clergymen, have reported incursions by local troops into El Salvador and by Salvadoran troops into Honduras.

Guatemala

Cerezo Trip to Mexico Termed 'Successful'

PA2207032690 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 20 Jul 90 p 10

[From the "Spyglass" column by Mario Antonio Sandoval: "A Successful Trip"]

[Text] President Vinicio Cerezo made a two-day visit to Mexico, his last as president of Guatemala, and it proved successful because highly beneficial agreements were signed. One of the agreements guarantees that the Mexican authorities will protect Guatemalan laborers who generally work in the zone of Chiapas from mistreatment; and another agreement refers to the refugees and people displaced by the war, who must decide whether they want to stay in the neighboring country or return to Guatemala. The Guatemalan president was received with all the courtesy and treatment given to a distinguished visitor, and his Mexican counterpart publicly praised him for the work he carried out to achieve the Central American peace agreements and the Central American Parliament. The official attention he received clearly showed that relations with Guatemala have become a highly important matter for Mexico, which sincerely wishes to cooperate in the solution of common problems.

Also, the tone of the speeches given by President Cerezo seemed to mark the beginning of a relationship between Guatemala and its northern neighbor, based on a very respectful attitude: Request aid and cooperation but make demands when it is necessary. This opens a new phase of negotiations and agreements seeking similarities, not differences. In a world that has become increasingly dependent on groups of nations, Guatemalans must eradicate the distrust with which we generally view relations between the two countries, above all because President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has amply proved that he has the political will and courage to make necessary, although painful, decisions. If a single market is established between Mexico, Canada, and the United States, Guatemala would benefit, given its proximity. Furthermore, Guatemala can learn the lessons derived from the Mexican experiments in the social and economic sectors, but without suffering the consequences of their mistakes.

There is interest in the pre-electoral situation in Guatemala, and the Rios Montt issue was brought up several times in the president's meetings with the media. Unfortunately, Dr. Cerezo did not answer reporter Jacobo Zabludovski's question about a re-election quite clearly. It did not dispel the doubt of whether the president is or is not interested in making the necessary reforms to the Constitution that would allow him to become president for another five-year period. The interview, when broadcast in Guatemala, will give us the opportunity to analyze the way in which the Guatemalan president answers the question about his re-election. The human rights issue was another topic of great interest to the media; and it was evident that Guatemala's prestige in that sector has diminshed somewhat. By the way, the only action against the visit occurred in Cuernavaca, where human rights activists insulted the Guatemalan president.

Comparing the differences between the Guatemalan presidents' and the current Mexican president's styles was interesting for many Mexicans. Despite being very different from his predecessors and trying to give the presidential figure an image of availability, the Mexican president still maintains many of the traditional traits of an almost imperial presidency. Mexicans were surprised to listen to President Cerezo answering with improvised speeches, not written ones, and by his inclination to smile and joke during his presentations and answers. In general terms, President Cerezo carried out his duties well and deserves congratulations because the benefits obtained by the agreements will benefit many Guatemalans. On this trip he carried out one of the most important duties a president has: to represent Guatemala and all of its inhabitants without exception. This trip seemed to confirm the belief that President Cerezo still has a

good personal image abroad, where the causes for which Guatemalans criticize him for his domestic policies are not known.

Godoy Visits, Comments on Strike, H. Ortega

PA2107170290 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Nicaraguan Vice President Virgilio Godoy, who is visiting our country, has commented on the strike and other related incidents that took place 5-12 July, which were described by FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] spokesmen as a sign of the power they still have. However, Godoy said these actions have a double meaning of both strength and weakness.

[Begin recording] [Godoy] They showed their strength because they were able to carry out all of these disorders with the indifference and sometimes with the complicity of military or police officers. They carried out their actions with impunity. However, they showed their weakness too, because it has been seen that the FSLN lacks the massive support they thought they had. The barricades [words indistinct], but the people in general rejected these types of vandalism. The strikers prevented the circulation of vehicles and they undermined the people's right to work in a productive manner.

[Reporter] There is a question that is still going around in our minds. Why was General Humberto Ortega left as defense minister?

[Godoy] That is a question that is posed every day in Nicaragua and that has not yet been answered adequately. It is said that it is the result of an agreement reached before the elections. According to the agreement, there would supposedly be guarantees both ways. If the FSLN won the elections, it would allow members of the opposition to hold positions in government. If the opposition won, which in fact occurred, then the opposition would do likewise.

[Reporter] How long will Humberto Ortega remain as defense minister?

[Godoy] The role he is playing is rather odd. He is no minister. He is simply the chief of the Armed Forces. He is chief of the military. There is no defense minister at this time. There is no telling how long he will stay there. We believe his retention was initially made contingent upon the disarmament of the Nicaraguan contras. The disarmament was completed on 10 June, but Gen. Ortega remained. Now it is being said that he will retire on 10 December of this year, but no one knows for sure. Come December, they may say he will retire in 1991. The truth is that nobody has a clear story on his tenure. [end recording]

3 Presidential Candidacies 'Could Disappear'

PA2207032090 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 20 Jul 90 p 4

[Text] Three presidential candidacies could disappear from the political scene in the next few days, and there is evidence of a climate of instability, which could lead to a confrontation of forces, Jorge Serrano Elias, presidential candidate for the Solidarity Action Movement (MAS), said yesterday.

The presidential candidate made statements to PRENSA LIBRE shortly before initiating his so-called Victory Tour with visits to several communities in the southern coast. The motorcade is composed of two buses properly identified with the MAS symbols, as well as more than 60 vehicles, not to mention those that will join during the journey.

Serrano Elias initiated his tour accompanied by Congressman Miguel Angel Montepeque Contreras, former Labor Minister Carlos Alarcon Monsanto, Eduardo Rottmann, as well as by all the members of his family, including his wife, Mrs. Magda de Serrano Elias.

Using his usual clear and specific way of expressing his viewpoints, Serrano Elias said that as part of the "political earthquake," which he recently mentioned, three presidential candidacies will have to disappear from the electoral scene.

For example, he said everyone knows about the agreement and the brotherhood that exists between PAN [National Vanguard Party] candidate Alvaro Arzu and Christian Democratic Party candidate Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo. There will be a unification of forces so the candidate will either be former Mayor Arzu or Cabrera Hidalgo.

The situation with General Jose Efrain Rios Montt will have to be decided in the next 15 days because the people cannot be left uncertain and with false hopes. I believe that if Article 186 of the constitution is applied, Gen. Rios will not be able to participate in the elections, and he will have to withdraw from the presidential race.

In addition, President Cerezo has already started making legal and political accusations against Jorge Carpio Nicolle, UCN [Union of the National Center] presidential candidate. If the president wants legal or constitutional norms to prevail, he could harm the UCN candidate.

However, Serrano Elias said all of this may create a climate of instability or destabilization. This could cause a confrontation of forces among groups or an attempt to destabilize the country, Serrano Elias concluded.

Mexico Will Not Integrate 40,000 Guatemalans

PA2207010090 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 19 Jul 90 p 14

[Text] Official sources reported yesterday that the Mexican Government has denied the integration of 40,000

Guatemalan refugees into its territory, but guaranteed that it would grant them voluntary stay so they can be considered as immigrants or residents.

One of the most important items on the agenda of the meeting between Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari was the refugee issue. It was reported that the Guatemalan Government presented the case of those 40,000 Guatemalan citizens, among which there are 13,000 children born in Mexico, to allow their integration into Mexico.

Architect Mario Hugo Rosal Garcia, the deputy foreign minister, told PRENSA LIBRE yesterday that in effect, the Mexican Government had not accepted the integration of the refugees into the Mexican territory. Rosales Garcia said that this situation was a sensitive matter for any government because it is not easy to integrate refugees or immigrants, granting them Mexican citizenship, as would be the current case.

Nevertheless, Rosa Garcia stressed that the Mexican authorities expressed their willingness to resolve once and for all the refugee problem. Therefore, in this regard, the Mexican Government and the Guatemalan Government will facilitate the voluntary return of Guatemalans to Guatemala.

President Salinas de Gortari also consented to the voluntary stay of Guatemalans in the peasant land settlements, and, as long as they comply with Mexican law, their requests for immigrant or resident status will be facilitated.

Rosal Garcia emphasized that in the current government, 5,000 Guatemalans have returned to the country, although 40,000 are still refugees. Should they choose not to return, 13,000 children born in the refugee camps of Guatemalan parents will have to be granted a new status.

Human Rights Violations Charged to Army, Police

PA2207005590 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2355 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 19 Jul (ACAN - EFE)— The Human Rights Office denounced the Army and police today for being behind most of the human rights violations reported in the country. Human Rights Attorney General Ramiro De Leon Carpio disclosed figures during a visit to national police Director Colonel Julio Caballeros Seigne. From January to June, the Human Rights Office received 67 complaints of human rights violations against soldiers, and 37 against policemen.

De Leon Carpio added that during that same period he received 46 complaints of violations against municipalities and 12 against the so-called Civilian Self-Defense Patrols (PAC). The officials said that the situation with the police "is very serious" because they are tasked with protecting the safety and physical well-being of Guatemalans. De Leon Carpio noted that in previous regimes the national police refused to send reports to his office when police agents were involved. He added that there are 29 regular files and 115 official files on accusations against policemen still pending because of a lack of information.

The attorney general asked Col. Caballeros to help establish coordination procedures to investigate and clarify cases of human rights violations.

Nicaragua

Authorities Avert Attack on Daniel Ortega

PA2007125290 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 19 Jul 90 p 12

[Report by Nora Montaneiro]

[Text] Esteli—Government Ministry authorities thwarted a plan to assassinate former President Daniel Ortega during his visit to this city on 16 July.

Military sources have reported that on the morning of 16 July, approximately 20 individuals armed with FAL rifles and wearing camouflage uniforms installed themselves in the town of Tomabu, Santa Cruz municipality, and waited for an opportunity to carry out their deadly plan.

The sources noted that the armed elements, who were under the orders of "Campeon," a former contra commander, had planned to attack Ortega in the afternoon, on the Panamerican Highway.

The sources stated that the terrorist plan was thwarted thanks to the professional work the police carry out in the country.

Unidentified Men Attack CTN Leader's Home

PA2107202790 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1840 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Managua, 21 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Carlos Huembes, secretary general of the Nicaraguan Workers Federation (CTN), reported today that "individuals taking advantage of the darkness" fired at his house—where he was sleeping with his family—12 times early today. No one was harmed.

Huembes, who is 41 years old, told officials at a Managua police post that when the "attack" occurred he was in his house—made of wood—with another eight people, including three children.

He added that they "miraculously" escaped this attack unharmed despite the fact that the shots were fired at the lower and upper parts of the house in this capital.

The anti-Sandinist union leader said that the "behavior of the assailants was that of true criminals because they fired indiscriminately."

Huembes told police that "it is highly coincidental this attack was carried out less than 48 hours after Deputy

Daniel Ortega said (in a speech to commemorate the 11th Sandinist anniversary) that heads would roll."

On 19 July, former Nicaraguan President Ortega said: "Those who think that the time has come for Sandinist heads to roll better be careful because, if that happens, their heads will be the first to roll."

The CTN headed by Huembes has been in existence for 29 years and has approximately 30,000 members.

Huembes was a prisoner of the Sandinists for five months following a demonstration on 10 July 1988 that ended in a pitched battle between anti-Sandinists and the police in Nandaime, a city located 70 km southeast of Managua.

According to Huembes, the CTN is fighting "to strengthen the democratic process in Nicaragua," but defends its autonomy vis-a-vis the government of Violeta Chamorro and the country's parties.

2 FMLN Members Captured Transporting Weapons

PA2107234190 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2225 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Managua, 21 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—The newspaper LA PRENSA of Managua, citing official sources, reported today that two members of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) were captured in Nicaragua while transporting weapons in a vehicle.

The report says that 45-year-old Jose Castro Chicas and 34-year-old Carlos Salmeron Hernandez were arrested on 16 July as they were transporting 20 eight-mm grenades and seven RPG-7 rocket launchers in a pickup truck.

Frank Cesar, spokesman for the Nicaraguan Government Ministry, has said that the guerrilla members were arrested at a place that is eight km south of Managua during a police operation to disarm civilians.

The authorities are investigating whether the two have adopted Nicaraguan citizenship as hundreds of Salvadorans have and whether other individuals are also involved in gunrunning.

Cesar pointed out that representatives in Nicaragua of the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) have been informed about the detentions.

Meanwhile, the Government Ministry has reiterated its commitment with the Chamorro government to not allow the use of national territory for attacks against other governments, the official spokesman added.

This is the first incident of this sort in the country since 25 April, when Chamorro assumed the presidency of Nicaragua.

Other sources cited by the newspaper indicate that Castro Chicas entered Nicaragua nine months ago and that one of two captured spent a year in Cuba.

Former Contra Leader Sets Deadline for Centers

PA2307151690 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1215 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Israel Galeano, the former contra, aka Franklin, has said that he will adopt measures, which he refused to specify, should the delegates of President Violeta Chamorro, by 1100 today, fail to fulfill their promises to upgrade and pay adequate attention to the development centers.

Franklin met on 21 July with leaders of the National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen [UNAG], Daniel Nunez among others, to discuss the problems faced by the peasants, the demobilized, who are working the land, as well as individual producers, cooperative members, mothers of heroes and martyrs, orphans, and the widows of those killed in the war.

UNAG and the former contras agreed to improve the relationship between the demobilized and peasant groups that live near development centers and demanded that the government give its full support to those centers to ensure the incorporation of disarmed troops into civilian and productive life for the sake of peace.

Minister Reports Arrested Strikers Released

PA2007161790 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Government Minister Carlos Hurtado has reported to Radio Nicaragua that the persons arrested during the last strike have been released following orders from President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro.

The official also said that he has sent President Chamorro a list of 180 cases of persons who are imprisoned as a result of alleged unjust charges. The minister explained this list will be turned over to the National Assembly with a document requesting their release.

Referring to the investigations of a clandestine cemetery in Mokoron, Minister Hurtado urged the people to have faith in the future.

CPT Calls March in Support of Government

PA2107150790 Managua Sistema Nacional Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] The Workers Permanent Congress, CPT, calls all workers to a march on Sunday, 22 July. The march will begin at 0800 in Ciudad Jardin and will end at the Nuevo Horizonte's rotunda.

This activity has been organized to reaffirm support for Chamorro's constitutional government and the national dialogue, and to demand compliance with the UNO [National Opposition Union] government platform. It will also demand a wage increase for employees not included in the budget.

Here is Antonio Jarquin, secretary general of the independent Central Organization of Nicaraguan Workers, CTN:.

[Begin Jarquin recording] This march organized by the CPT and the UNO political parties is being carried out within the framework of another anniversary of the people's victory, and also to say: Enough to the pretensions and to 10 and one-half years of Sandinist disgrace. [end recording]

Jarquin said that the march will be headed by UNO political groups and by labor leaders of the independent CGT [General Confederation of Labor], the CAUS [Central Organization of Trade Union Action and Unity], CUS [Confederation of Trade Union Unity], and the autonomous CTN.

[Begin Jarquin recording] Our intention is to clearly show that the people, and particularly the workers, headed by the UNO political parties, are against the Sandinists' destabilization plans and firmly reject the movements by Sandinist paramilitary groups that have tried to hamper the emerging Nicaraguan democratic process. [end recording]

Cultural groups will participate in a rally at the end of the march.

Cosep President Cuadra Interviewed in Managua

PA2207040790 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Interview with Gilberto Cuadra, president of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise, Cosep, by an unidentified reporter in Managua on 19 July—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Our first question has to do with consensus or dialogue. Do you think it will resolve Nicaragua's current political and economic problems?

[Cuadra] I seems to me that political problems are resolved through political solutions. Economic problems have economic solutions. In 1979 this country had apparently settled its political problem through the uprising, which will mark its 11th anniversary tomorrow, and which was a mass movement, because all sectors participated in it. But at that time achieving a political solution became impossible because the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] took the revolution for itself. Throughout these 10 years, the country has continued seeking the political solution and has grown poorer and more removed from civilized world.

As the country grew poorer, it impoverished Central America, blocked development in Central American countries, and blocked political solutions. That is how things stood until the negotiations between the USSR and the United States in October 1989, where both sides agreed to force—and force is the word—Nicaragua to have elections that were meant to be decisive. This whole situation led us to a purported political solution where the people's vote proved that they wanted changed and that they were not masochists who wanted the suffering, death, and shortages to continue. The people wanted a better education, and, deep down, to have a future.

However, the political solution once again eluded the people of Nicaragua. It continues to elude us because it is thought that giving the people economic solutions will satisfy them, and the problem will go away. No, the problem will continue as long as no political solution is found. The current Chamorro administration has the solution by returning to the sources that gave it life and vitality. I mean the people's strength, represented by the political groups comprising UNO [National Opposition Union], labor groups, and that large majority that without belonging to a political party, unions, and business groups, voted for change and to have democracy, development, and peace.

All of this is what solves the problem. Dialogue is good and necessary. I would say that it is a good step toward finding a consensus. However, so long as a political solution is not found, economic patches will be like patches put on a tire, which rather than helping the tire, weakens it.

[Reporter] Engineer Cuadra, as president of Cosep, do you believe that it is right to talk to the political parties?

[Cuadra] It is interesting to see how, in its quest for support, the government has turned to sectors where it has no support. The political parties that are now supporting the government are the ones that adopted incorrect attitudes and politically confronted the UNO; they confronted Mrs. Chamorro and became her adversaries, and the people, acknowledging them as such, offered them little support—not to say that they totally rejected them. I do not believe that they garnered any more than three percent of the votes, maybe less.

Now they have emerged as the country's great saviors, but the people know them for what they are. They made a mistake. Perhaps there are good people among them; I do not doubt that, but those good people totally missed their target and went against the people's will and even said unkind things about the president, the UNO's political council, and the people who supported it. It is a mistake, therefore, for the government to seek the support of a group that has practically been rejected by the people, a group that does not exist.

[Reporter] To conclude, Engineer Cuadra, here is my final question. Everyone knows that the private sector is undergoing a very acute crisis because the Cosep, which is under your leadership, has yielded to Godoy. Can you explain this situation?

[Cuadra] I will say this. The fact is that the private sector crisis that you have mentioned is a national crisis; it is shared by the labor unions, the FSLN, the government, and the people. In our search for a national salvation solution, we agreed to join the UNO, which advocates democracy and a future for Nicaragua. Therefore, we have not yielded to Dr. Godoy in the least. We share his hope that the current government will survive, that it

will truly govern, that the people's determination to make changes will prevail, and that Nicaragua will have a future. I would not describe this as yielding; we simply agree with Godoy, we share his ideals, and for the first time, and this is what has many people worried, the business, political, and labor sectors have almost reached a tacit agreement to save Nicaragua from the Sandinist disaster.

[Reporter] Engineer Cuadra, have you received a call from the government or the National Salvation Committee to talk with Mrs. Chamorro?

[Cuadra] No. Not yet. To be honest, however, we have received a faxed message—the world moves very fast now—from the Worldwide Employers Organization (Organizacion Mundial de Empleadores] based in Geneva. The message expresses the organization's support for our position and for the ideas and plans that the political, labor, and industrial sectors share. The president of this organization sent us this fax, which clearly proves that the organization fully supports what we are doing. Therefore, we are not alone; we have worldwide support—not only the business world's, but also that of all the areas of the world where the winds of freedom and free market, and against statism, centralized economies, and Marxism- Leninism are very strong and constant, and are pointing us toward an area where Nicaragua, and not only Nicaragua but Central America, will find better opportunities for its future generations.

[Reporter] Thank you, Engineer Cuadra, for your statements to the nation on Radio Catolica in Managua, Nicaragua.

FSLN Directorate's Convocation to Congress

PA2107190190 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 20 Jul 90 p 3

["Convocation to the People's Congress" issued by the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, in Managua on 19 July]

[Text] Message from the FSLN National Directorate

Convocation to the People's Congress

Nicaraguan brothers:

Eleven years ago, on 19 July 1979, the Nicaraguan people led by the Sandinist Front overthrew the Somozist dictatorship.

On that heroic date, the peoples of the world expressed their solidarity with us. The battle against the Somozist regime imposed by the U.S. occupation troops was a struggle conducted by Nicaragua, Latin America, and the Third World countries that favored independence, the right to self-determination, sovereignty, and the territorial integrity of nations.

The foundations of the Somozist model were destroyed on 19 July 1979, and on that same date foundations were laid for a new popular and democratic model that originated with the revolutionary process.

The imperialist aggression tried to destroy this model, but its attempts were in vain because they were confronted with the firmness and determination of the Nicaraguan people who were building a true democracy.

The U.S. policy that was condemned by the International Court of Justice resulted in over 60,000 victims and $17.7 billion in property damage. The Sandinist Front and the Nicaraguan people, however, never hesitated. The objective was very clear: Nicaragua had to develop its democracy and attain peace with dignity.

Now that we are marking the 11th anniversary of the Sandinist people's revolution, the Sandinist Front intends to strengthen that democracy by correcting faults and mistakes and by changing styles and work methods. The FSLN intends to reaffirm the principle that it is always on the people's side to share their concerns, establish programs, and carry out actions to defend the people's achievements and national interests.

The Sandinist Front inherited the tradition of the people's struggle of Andres Castro, Jose Dolores Estrada, Benjamin Zeledon, and Augusto Cesar Sandino. The Sandinist Front inherited Sandino's historic program and the firmness of Rigoberto Lopez Perez.

Today, 19 July 1990, the Sandinist Front of Carlos Fonseca, German Pomares, and Camilo Ortega invites the entire Nicaraguan people, the mothers of martyrs and heroes, the militants, members, historic combatants, historic supporters, and all the Sandinist forces to participate in the first congress of the vanguard movement of all Nicaraguans, the FSLN. With this invitation we begin a process of open, fraternal, and constructive discussions to which all men, women, youths, and elderly are welcomed. The only requirement for participation in the congress is to be a citizen with a desire to contribute to the homeland's well-being.

Without sectarianism, and in honor of our heroes and martyrs, our presence will multiply in the hamlets, valleys, mountains, intendancies, neighborhoods, municipalities, and cities.

Without liberalism, and honoring our heroes and martyrs, we will all speak at the public square meetings, workshops, assemblies, on the radio, and through the newspapers so that the FSLN is increasingly more democratic and consequently stronger. We will hold those discussions so that the FSLN continues to be the party of the most and the best.

With this convocation we open the first people's congress that will culminate on February 1991.

The task falls upon the shoulders of all Nicaraguans who deserve to be heard. The task belongs to all of us who are willing to go on defending the right to a free homeland and the right to live, although we are willing to surrender

our lives if necessary, because we are convinced that it is better to fight and die as men than to live as slaves.

With the same enthusiasm and energy that all Nicaraguans put together to defeat the Somozist dictatorship 11 years ago, we will now massively participate in the first people's congress, which is the first FSLN congress.

Long live the 11th anniversary of the triumph of the Sandinist People's Revolution!

Long live the people's struggle in defense of the revolution's achievements!

Long live the first FSLN congress!

Sandino is alive! The struggle continues!

Free fatherland or death!

[Signed] FSLN National Directorate

Managua, Nicaragua, Revolution Square

19 July 1990

Mayorga on Implementing Economic Changes

PA2207010290 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Jul 90 pp 1,8

[Text] Nicaragua is strongly moving toward stabilizing the economy and controlling the national deficit, which was getting out of hand in four different ways.

Central Bank Minister Francisco Mayorga has said that, despite the social unrest caused by the extremists, the new government will have a new strong currency on par with the U.S. dollar by the end of July.

Mayorga added that the gold cordobas will maintain their parity with the U.S. dollar for approximately one year and six months, as established by the implementation of the economic program of Violeta Chamorro's administration in different areas. According to Mayorga, the flight of the economy has been controlled [sentence as published].

Mayorga said that the economic deficit has been like an uninterrupted "ouflow" of wealth that has been wasted, adding that the devaluations are the only possible way to overcome this problem caused by the mismanagement of the previous government.

In the sense that the budget deficit is being controlled in four different ways, the devaluations are slowing down. "It is true that all prices has increased, but their rate of growth has begun to slow down," Mayorga said.

Mayorga said that the devaluations represent a sacrifice, but there is no other alternative. One can rest assured that after the painful experience, good progress is going to made because this is the first government that is working to benefit the people, he added.

The first deficit, which is the exchange rate deficit, has been controlled. Once the "gap" between the price of the U.S. dollar on the official and black markets "is reduced," the government will not lose money like it did before, when it sold U.S. dollars for less than what it had paid for them.

The second deficit is being reduced at public utility companies by fixing real prices for water, light, communications, and transportation services. Therefore, those companies will now be in better operational condition.

The third deficit, which includes the central government, the administration of ministries, and the Army, resulted from very high expenditures.

The disarmament and reorganization of the Army amid political storms is cutting down another large deficit.

Two and a half months after assuming power, Chamorro's government has reduced the Army. It has also implemented a tax reform that will simplify the enormous taxes that the Sandinists imposed as "selective consumer taxes," which will make national products more competitive. Above all, the new tax system will reduce taxes for lower income groups.

According to Mayorga, taxes were fixed in gold cordobas. He added that in the economic field, "the eye of the storm is being kept under control."

The transition between an old and a new system is a revolution in the accounting field, and therefore, a certain amount of confusion is normal. However, he added that in the next few weeks that confusion will disappear, and each Nicaraguan will have an economy that will be easy to handle at all levels, from the family budget to large enterprises.

The fourth and last gap—the deficit between production and costs—is being narrowed in the People's Ownership Sector, or APP, Mayorga said.

The managers of those enterprises have realized that some of them are technologically obsolete. There were no investments for the past 10 years or more; the equipment is worn out or too old to be repaired. Most of these enterprises have all too often functioned as ministries, with excessive personnel and production losses.

According to Mayorga, there are some enterprises in the APP group that could be very productive, but this is very difficult while they are being run by the state, depending on the nature of the business.

If privatization policies being implemented in that field make those idle sectors fall into hands that will make them produce, the country will benefit in two ways.

Subsidies will be eliminated, and production will increase. At the same time, those enterprises will pay taxes and will generate profits, which in turn will bring a

second benefit, which is creating more jobs and distributing wealth more evenly. Hence, where there was once a deficit, there will be a surplus.

The reduction of the deficits in the central government and the APP will take place gradually and according to a plan, within the framework of a congruous economy that will not be vulnerable, Mayorga stressed.

The only factor that can hurt the gold cordoba's stability is the deficit. Therefore, controlling it is the only way to guarantee its parity with the dollar after its initial 18 months, when it will emerge "with firm steps," Mayorga concluded.

Leader Says MUR Expels Deputy Moises Hassan

PA2107160190 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] The National Council of the Movement of Revolutionary Unity, MUR, yesterday expelled Deputy Moises Hassan from its ranks, MUR leader Francisco Samper announced this morning at a news conference. He said Hassan's political stance, which is at odds with the party's policies, prompted the expulsion. Here is Francisco Samper:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Is there a split between MUR and Moises Hassan?

[Samper] MUR's National Council met yesterday. This council, which comprises the Executive Committee members and department coordinators, decided yesterday to permanently expel Moises Hassan from our ranks because his political stance in no way reflects our party's own policy and programs. The National Council expelled Moises Hassan, and here are the reasons for the decision.

After 25 February, Hassan began making public statements that distanced him from MUR's electoral platform and policy. For instance, he said he was willing to cooperate with or serve as minister in the Chamorro administration. His stance countered our party's stance because we are actively opposed to that government, as we believe it has capitalist leanings or defends capitalist interests. In addition, his actions at the National Assembly were deplorable or unfortunate. He voted for the amendments to the civil service law. This action counters our electoral platform, because we promised our voters we would draft a new civil service law that would protect state employees. He voted to abstain in the amendments to the labor code, which affects thousands and thousands of employees. And, finally, he voted in favor of amnesty for Somozist guardsmen.

Afterward, the National Council held a meeting to call his attention to this. He said he would follow the Executive Committee's orders. However, he reneged on his word when he became the spokesman for Democratic Youths, a group with ties to the National Opposition Union. All these actions, plus what he did later on—for example, he criticized the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] and failed to support the National Workers' Front during the past state employees' strike, and joined a center bloc with other political parties without the authorization of our party's leaders or so much as consulting them—compelled us to permanently remove him from our ranks. [end recording]

MUR Deputy Moises Hassan called his expulsion from the party the childish act by a small group inspired by the FSLN. When asked if he would appeal, he replied he has no time to clown around and that the country has enough problems without adding another.

[Begin recording] [Hassan] A small group of persons has been unhappy with some of my political stances. However, this group in no way represents MUR and cannot expel anyone. I think it is childish of this group to put on a show about my purported expulsion. The expulsion makes no sense, and it is not valid. That is my reaction.

[Reporter] Will you appeal the expulsion, because they will take the legal steps of notifying the National Political Parties Council and the Supreme Electoral Council on account of your position in the assembly?

[Hassan] If they take this to the National Political Parties Council, they will most likely be surprised to find they lack representation and cannot demand anyone's expulsion. If that council goes along with that group, it will clearly show that this is a ploy concocted by the FSLN, since that party controls the council. It will be made clear that steps of this kind are taken against people with independent political stances.

[Reporter] If the case is taken to the council, what will you do about it?

[Hassan] Nothing at all. The country has enough problems without me wasting my time in appealing childish actions instigatated by the big daddy or the spiritual leaders of this group. I have more important matters to which to devote my attention.

[Reporter] Do you have the names of those in that small group?

[Hassan] I do not think it is worthwhile to give their names. [end recording]

Labor Leader on Topics in National Dialogue

PA2207022490 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Interview with Alejandro Solorzano, leader of the "Progovernment" Permanent Workers Congress, CPT, by Esteban Solis during "Today's Interview" program in Nicaragua on 20 Jul—recorded]

[Text] [Solis] Today, we will broach a topic we have already discussed on previous occasions. We will do so this time with one of most outstanding leaders of the so-called Permanent Workers Congress, or CPT, which

is made up of several progovernment labor federations. In other words, it supports the government.

This time we have talked with Alejandro Solorzano, who is a member of the CPT and of the CGTI [General Confederation of Independent Workers]. Among other things, he says that by the time the trade unions sit down to talk with the government and private businesses, agreements must have been reached on at least a law on minimum wages and the establishment of a collective bargaining system to govern or regulate this matter.

In addition, Solorzano talked about the need to establish a sort of coercive force. That is, Alejandro is thinking the way people thought at the time of the Somoza dictatorship, when the National Guard oppressed the workers.

Alejandro, what are your views about the tripartite dialogue that is slated to begin soon?

[Solorzano] Our idea is to arrive at the national dialogue with some issues already settled, and I want to make this quite clear: You know that we participated in the drafting of the program of government of national salvation before President Violeta de Chamorro's inauguration. This program implicitly took into account our demands regarding the fulfillment of all agreements with the International Labor Organization, the right to collective bargaining, and the government's obligation to appoint a national commission on minimum wages as well as to have legislation approved by the National Assembly to eliminate the SNOTS [National Labor and Wages Organization System] once and for all. The SNOTS has remained as a holdover and is, to some extent, still being applied to the workers in some enterprises, if they let their guard down.

[Solis] Alejandro, can you give me at least some example of what you are pointing out? If the salary question is not going to be an issue at the dialogue, what would you raise there?

[Solorzano] The minimum salary issue would have already been settled. What we will do at the dialogue is propose a major collective bargaining agreement. I conceive it as a social agreement saying, for instance, that we will utilize these measures or rules for, say, one or two years. I cannot tell. This would come out in the major national dialogue.

[Solis] Alejandro, Antonio Jarquin of the CTN [Central Organization of Nicaraguan Workers] has pointed out that the government is deviating from its original program. Do you think so? What are the deviations?

[Solorzano] We could discuss this at the same national dialogue too. We are human beings who experience different moods and can think. For instance, this government of national salvation has no coercive power. It has the strength from the people's support and from the majority that voted for Mrs. Chamorro on 25 February 1990. Sometimes the government may appear to be deviating in some cases because it does not have coercive power. However, we can discuss this at the national dialogue. This is not a motive for disagreement among us. So, some leader, because of his mood at the moment, may question whether a given conflict is being solved or not. This must be understood.

Radio Corporacion May Return to Air Next Week

PA2207034890 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Italicized passages are recorded]

[Text] Radio Corporacion workers reported this morning that the Government Ministry has arrested several people who reportedly participated in sabotaging the radio station's antenna.

[Radio Corporacion employee Santiago Meneses Vallecillo] *We have learned unofficially that five people have been arrested, including three soldiers and two civilians. The five people have practically been declared guilty, but the problem is that the Government Ministry officials cannot accuse them outright because they lack the power to enforce the law and punish those criminals who attacked Radio Corporacion's plant and jeopardized freedom of expression.*

Radio Corporacion's antenna was blown up last week by people who still have not been identified. After the sabotage the station's workers issued an appeal to the citizenry, urging everyone to cooperate with the radio station. Radio Corporacion Director Fabio Gadea said that the people's wholehearted cooperation has been received from all over the country.

[Gadea] *The people have rushed with their contributions to the Nicaraguan Bank branches throughout the country and I have already received a positive report. The campaign is well ahead, so Radio Corporacion might resume its operations with a new plant, but this will take some time, approximately five or six months. Meanwhile, we will be on the air next week. We will probably use Radio Minuto's plant and then we will use a small plant, on 540 khz. However, we are announcing to our friends, listeners, clients, and sponsors that we will be on the air next week, even if we do it in a precarious way.*

Radio Corporacion workers are working and performing maintenance duties on the radio station's installations.

[Gadea] *Radio Corporacion, which is truly the heart of our people, must leave something tangible for posterity. We have been thinking for some time about building a medical dispensary and naming it after Radio Corporacion. This way Radio Corporacion will return all the people's affection, understanding, and support with social actions.*

23 Cuban Doctors Arrive To Help Flood Victims

PA2107190490 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1815 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Health Minister Ernesto Salmeron has announced that 23 Cuban doctors have arrived to give emergency aid to more than 45,000 children in the Atlantic Coast region. These children are ill with malaria and measles as a result of the floods affecting most of the area. The minister said that the emergency has forced the Atlantic Coast autonomous government to appeal for urgent international aid. Cuba immediately answered the call.

The brigade of Cuban doctors will remain in Nicaragua for six weeks. The doctors brought about $150,000 worth of medicine for curing infectious diseases.

Meanwhile, the Nicaraguan Red Cross reported that it has used up the $20,000 in aid available for attending to the more than 100,000 people affected by the flooding of the Wawa and Prinzapolka Rivers on the Atlantic Coast.

Police To Search for Illegal Civilian Weapons

PA2207132090 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1705 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Managua, 21 Jul (DPA)—Nicaraguan Government Minister Carlos Hurtado has announced that, beginning in August, police will stage operations to search the civilian population for weapons which have not been legalized, because, he said, "we believe that it is important to complete the disarmament as soon as possible to lower the tensions among the population."

Hurtado said that a disarmament operation—aimed especially at seizing war weapons—cannot be carried out from one day to another. Therefore, in operations staged in strategic areas of cities, especially roads, the police will be backed by the Sandinist People's Army.

Regarding whether there will be sanctions against those who illegally possess weapons, Minister Hurtado said that all illegal acts subject the perpetrators to sanctions.

Argentina

Menem Discusses Possible Cabinet Restructuring

PY2207234290 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2006 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 22 Jul (TELAM)—Argentine President Carlos Menem today denied possible cabinet changes, although he admitted that a restructuring of cabinet functions is being studied, including the creation of the Ministries of Production and Ecology.

Speaking with journalists while entering the Olivos presidential residence, Menem categorically denied any personal relationship with Maria Julia Alsogaray, Entel [National Telecommunications Enterprise] trustee. "I have nothing to do with her, she is an official and a friend, but my relationship with her does not go beyond that."[passage omitted]

Menem confirmed that Alvaro Alsogaray would continue as foreign debt adviser, and he admitted that the study of cabinet restructuring includes the creation of the Ministries of Production and Ecology.

The president explained that the Ministry of Production must "make Argentina function on its own natural resources," and he justified the creation of a Ministry of Ecology on the fact that "we want to become the first ecological country of the world, and I think we will achieve it."

Upon making an evaluation of his administration, Menem said: "In terms of what we want, things are going well enough." He added: "In a reasonable time things will be much better. Our achievements of one year cannot be believed abroad." [passage omitted]

The president said that he will remain in the Olivos residence until 24 July to recover from the flu. He added that his attendance at Fujimori's presidential inauguration in Lima next week is subject to medical authorization.

Alsogaray Debt Plan Backs Privatization

PY2107115490 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1126 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 20 Jul (NA)—Presidential foreign debt adviser Alvaro Alsogaray has revealed a daring plan to reduce the foreign debt by $42 billion through a package that will sell four or five government-owned companies and has harshly criticized the Economy Ministry policy on Argentina's foreign debt. The UCD [Democratic Center Union] deputy said that his foreign debt reduction plan is based on the capitalization of Argentine foreign-debt notes held by foreign banks. [passage omitted]

Alsogaray said that he submitted this plan to President Carlos Menem this past Wednesday [18 July] but refused to reveal the names of the enterprises included in the plan. He said simply that "they are enterprises that can be sold fast and at good prices."

Alsogaray pointed out, however, that neither the Yacyreta Binational Enterprise nor the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) are included in the package. He said that his proposal is intended to get a group of creditor banks "interested in purchasing a group of enterprises," which will "bring the debt down to a manageable level."

He said that the $24-billion debt to multilateral financial organizations and financial institutions "is not a big problem for Argentina, and it is within a level the country can handle." He added, however, that "the debt to the banks generates interest of $6.2 billion per year, which cannot be paid in cash because it would impose an intolerable sacrifice on the people."

Alsogaray also noted that "it is a fortunate circumstance that we want to sell the enterprises because we cannot run them and the bank might want to buy them to reduce our debt." [passage omitted]

The presidential foreign debt adviser indicated that "this proposal is now up for consideration by the head of the executive branch" and expressed his willingness to continue "cooperating" with President Menem "in this or other matters."

Alsogaray noted, however, that with this "packaged" privatization plan the mission conferred on him in his appointment decree has been accomplished. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Meets UK Ambassador

PY2107151290 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2020 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jul (NA)—Timothy Sainsbury, British Foreign Office under secretary of Latin American affairs, will visit Argentina in September on a date that is still to be established. Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo is likely to travel to London two months later as the head of a business mission that will include Cordoba Governor Eduardo Angeloz and Mendoza Governor Jose Octavio Bordon.

This information was released by Cavallo after holding his first working meeting with new British Ambassador to Argentina Humphrey Maud at the Foreign Ministry building.

Cavallo said after the meeting that the last bilateral negotiations held in Madrid provided "a true agenda for the many areas in which Argentina and Great Britain can promote their relations." He stressed that "we believe there are many fields in which relations with Great Britain can be fruitfully promoted, although Argentina is particularly interested in the area of commerce."

He recalled that last year "we were visited by an important delegation of British businessmen, and we would

now like to return that courtesy, facilitating the conclusion of deals between the two countries."

Asked about British interests in Argentina, Humphrey Maud said that "a British company has already offered $89 million [not further specified], and this reflects confidence in the economic future of this country." Maud added that "there are other firms that are strongly interested" in investing in Argentina.

Asked whether there is oil in the Malvinas Islands, he said that "this is still to be explored. I have no specific details on the issue."

As for Argentina's request that the EEC eliminate subsidies in the farming sector, Maud said that "the position of my government is very close to that of the Argentine Government." He noted: "We support the liberalization of the farm sector, and we support the Cairns group, in which Argentina plays a significant role."

Cavallo was then asked about the possibility of a meeting between President Carlos Menem and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Cavallo replied that so far "there are no plans" for such a meeting. "There will be a visit sometime in the future, but that will be arranged by the respective embassies, in keeping with the agendas of both chiefs of state and the progress in bilateral relations."

"It is not just any two people who will be meeting, but the chiefs of state of two nations that have their own histories and have been engaged in a very serious conflict over the Malvinas Islands," he said.

British Trade Delegation Arrives for Discussions

PY2207222490 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 22 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN) A delegation of British businessmen interested in promoting trade with Argentina arrived here yesterday under the leadership of Anthony Westnedge, a specialist in debt capitalization and financial agreements between Britain and Latin America.

The businessmen—all of whom are members of the Latin American Trade Advisory Group—will attempt to resume the contacts begun last November when another LATAG group headed by Lord Montgomery came to Buenos Aires.

The mission, which will remain in the country until Thursday [26 July], plans to meet Argentine businessmen, Foreign and Economy Ministry officials and the British Ambassador, Humphrey Maud.

The mission includes Anthony Butler, commercial manager of a communications equipment company; Eric Hansen, member of a specialized tool company; Dom Gordon, a partner in a construction material company and Michael Valdez-Scott, executive chief of the delegation.

The group branched off from a larger delegation which toured Uruguay, Chile, Brazil and Paraguay.

Economy Minister Returns From Italy, Spain

PY2207231890 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1922 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Jul (DYN)—Upon arriving today from his trip to Italy and Spain, Economy Minister Erman Gonzalez said that he knew nothing about the alleged creation of a Ministry of Production, although its creation could be considered in a possible cabinet reshuffle.

At the Ezeiza International Airport, the minister denied that Diego Estevez, current under secretary of Public Enterprises would be replaced by Maria Julia Alsogaray, Entel [National Telecommunications Enterprise] trustee.

He added that the government is not planning to pass a new fiscal package, and he did not want to discuss the possible inclusion of the ENTEL trustee in the national cabinet.

First Trade Delegation Returns From Australia

PY2007210590 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0045 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Summary] La Plata, 18 Jul (DYN)—Jose Maria Vernet, the minister of Agrarian and Fishing Affairs of the Buenos Aires Province has returned from Australia. He termed the first visit by an Argentine trade delegation to that country as "successful." He said: "The Argentine businessmen held worthwhile trade negotiations" and that "channels were opened for the export of several products."

Australian manufacturers and importers will visit Buenos Aires Province to establish permanent trade channels through which to purchase machinery and spare parts for the Australian and southeastern Asian markets.

CNEA Chairman Discusses Privatization Rumors

PY2107035590 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1955 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jul (TELAM)—Manuel Mondino, chairman of the National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA], has admitted that the CNEA has prepared a plan—to soon be submitted to President Carlos Menem—for the creation of a "mixed association for nuclear plant operations." He expressed surprise over rumors that these plants will be turned over to private hands.

"Our plans are well known at the Energy Undersecretariat," Mondino said. He noted that he is facing a "struggle of interests" as in December 1989, when the CNEA was previously ordered transferred from presidential jurisdiction to the secretariat, which was led at that time by Julio Cesar Araoz. This decision was finally overruled by the president.

In remarks to the press, Mondino said that the shutdown of Atucha-1 "was not caused by a plant failure" but by a problem in a "discharger" in the national network system (SIC) that caused peak tension on the line, and "all the safety mechanisms reacted" to shut down the reactor.

He said that in these cases the "nuclear poison" remains within the atomic plant, preventing a reaction. A total cleanup of the plant is necessary, and this will take some 40 hours. He said that if the plant did not suffer any damage, Atucha-1 will probably resume operations between tonight and tomorrow morning.

The CNEA president said the rumor that this shutdown was caused by the same damage that affected the plant in 1987 was an "offense to scientists," pointing out that repair work concluded in January 1990. Atucha-1 resumed operations at full capacity (362 megawatts) last week.

Regarding the possible privatization of the two operating nuclear plants (Atucha-1 and Embalse) and the one under construction (Atucha-2), Mondino said that "for security reasons the CNEA's presence is necessary." He added that the proposed mixed association anticipates the participation of the CNEA, not as a major shareholder but with control over security, technological services, and the transfer of "know-how" [preceding two words in English].

Mondino said that Argentina is increasing its participation in construction of the country's nuclear plants, with 11-percent participation in Atucha-1, 33 percent in Embalse, and 60 percent in Atucha-2, while "in terms of thermal power plants we are still a technologically dependent country."

Mondino pointed out that "the energy sector is in a disastrous state" because "out of every four thermal kilowatts, three are wasted." He explained that thermal power plants have an installed capacity of 6,351 megawatts, but that up to now 4,875 megawatts are not available, representing 76.76 percent. In terms of hydroelectricity, 941 megawatts out of a total of 5,771 are unavailable (16.31 percent); in the nuclear sector, 18 megawatts out of a total of 1,026 are not available (1.75 percent).

Regarding the completion of current projects (Atucha-2, the Neuquen heavy water industrial plant, and the Pilcaniyeu uranium enrichment plant), Mondino said that a "timetable for the use of foreign credit" was agreed upon two days ago with Finance Secretary Saul Bouer, and "we were told to continue as far as possible," he said.

He also noted that Allotment 42 (for projects) "has been reduced by 244 billion australes (repeat, australes)" in the 1990 budget, which for the CNEA amounts to approximately $320 million, "with a minimum contribution of $50 million in treasury bonds, to be paid in five years." I believe that with these resources, which include the "pari pasu" German credit, the remainder of another private German credit, and a Spanish contribution, we will be able to advance 10 percent "between now and March," Mondino said.

According to Mario Rapisardi, CNEA's manager of administration and finance, the heavy water plant will get 63.7 million [currency not specified] (10 million from the Treasury and the rest in bonds, bonex [export bonds], existing credits, and other specific resources), which will allow the project—which is almost finished—to advance at least three or four percent, and to perhaps begin operating "by the end of 1991," he said.

Power Peak Disables Atucha 1 Nuclear Plant

PY2007150890 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0119 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jul (TELAM)—National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA] sources reported tonight that the Atucha 1 nuclear plant went out of action this morning due to "a high tension peak on the line" of the national interconnected service.

The spokesmen indicated that the failure was due to "causes that have nothing to do with the plant," and that the failure was caused by "problems in SEGBA's [Greater Buenos Aires Electrical Services] generation of electricity."

The nuclear plant, which began to operate at 100 percent capacity (345,000 kw) last week, experienced the high tension peak in the conventional (nonnuclear) part of its installations.

The sources stated that the consequences of this problem will have to be evaluated and that the nuclear plant will be out of operation for two to three days.

Rico Hopes To Become President; Lambastes Bonnet

PY2007200590 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1310 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Mar del Plata, 20 Jul (NA)—Former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico has said here that General Martin Bonnet, the current Army chief of staff, "does not exist, either as a military leader or as an intellectual." Rico admitted that his ambition is to become president of the Republic and said that General Antonio Domingo Bussi "cannot win [in the upcoming Tucuman governorship elections] against [former pop singer] Palito Ortega. He cannot win against anyone."

Rico made this statement to LU9 Radio Mar del Plata after an interview on the LU6 radio station failed. Rico walked out the LU6 radio station studios obviously angry after Eduardo Romanin, a former Mar del Plata Intransigent Party (PI) president, tried to publicly debate with him on the Buenos Aires constitutional reform issue.

"I came to talk about the constitutional reform issue, not to argue with anyone. I am fed up," the leader of the Easter Week and Monte Caseros uprisings said upon walking out a program of the official radio station Emisora Atlantica de Mar del Plata. The show is anchored by Eduardo Zanoli, a journalist who has been on the air for 21 years. [passage omitted]

Rico then went to LU9 Radio Mar del Plata where he said that Gen. Antonio Domingo Bussi "cannot win against Palito Ortega in Tucuman. He cannot win against anyone."

Asked his opinion about the current Army chief of staff, Rico said that "Gen. Bonnet does not exist, either as a military leader or as an intellectual."

Rico also admitted that he has "tremendously ambitious political and personal goals," adding that his paramount goal is "to become president of the Republic."

Bolivia

Capobianco Hails Success of Antidrug Program

PY2107153890 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco has stated that Bolivia has exceeded its initial goals for the first half of 1990 as far as the eradication of coca crops and confiscation of drugs is concerned. Capobianco said that more than 10 tons of drugs were confiscated and more than 5,000 hectares of coca eradicated during this period. To this, he said, we must add 2,000 hectares of coca seedlings.

[Begin Capobianco recording] This successful effort and political determination is not matched, however, by an adequate response from the international community in joining and supporting our policy of eradicating coca through development. I believe this is essentially what presidential economic adviser Samuel Doria Medina has said, and he is right. I believe Bolivia is now doing more than the international community is doing to support our socioeconomic development, in replacing a drug-based economy with a healthier economy, an economy that should be free of this scourge. [end recording]

Capobianco concluded by noting that the international community is behind in its commitments to supply financial resources to fund alternate development programs.

Terrorist Accused of 1988 Attack on Shultz Killed

PY2107165890 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Officials from the Interior Ministry and the La Paz Departmental Police have held a news conference to give details on the death of university student Juan Domingo Peralta Espinoza, who was fatally shot yesterday morning in the vicinity of Buenos Aires Avenue.

The officials said that Peralta was wanted by the police because it had been confirmed that he was a member of the outlawed Zarate Willka organization.

The official report says that police officers attempted to arrest him at 0830 yesterday [20 July] but Peralta responded by firing at the officers who, following legal procedures, returned the fire and shot Peralta, who managed to escape by shielding himself behind a child. Peralta did not get far, however, because he passed out from his heavy bleeding. He was then arrested and taken to the John XXIII Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. [passage omitted]

[Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish at 1502 GMT on 21 July carries a 200-word TELAM-DPA item datelined La Paz on the same subject which notes that Peralta Espinoza was wanted because he was allegedly "actively involved in the attack on former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in August 1988 and in the murder of two U.S. Mormon missionaries last year."]

Iturralde Reports to Congress on U.S. Military

PY2007173890 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Today Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde appeared before Congress to report on activities currently being carried out by U.S. advisers in Beni, where they are training Bolivian Navy officers.

During his address, Minister Iturralde noted the following:

[Begin Iturralde recording] Other exercises were scheduled within the jurisdiction of the 1st Naval District during 1989. Although these exercises were authorized by the pertinent authorities, they were postponed until 1990; this is why the third training operation only materialized this year.

The purpose of this exercise is to verify and assess the training level of our cadres as well as to update and teach them the new techniques for routine naval operations.

It should be pointed out that these exercises, in addition to the aid granted to the Bolivian Navy, also benefit the inhabitants of the areas where they are conducted because among the U.S. advisers are a large number of physicians, dentists, veterinarians, and nurses who carry out civic action tasks such as providing dental and medical assistance and training to the people and veterinary assistance to all types of animals. [end recording]

Miners, Government Reach Temporary Agreement

PY2007153890 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Excerpt] This afternoon the government signed an agreement with the National Federation of Mining Cooperatives, Fencomin. The document states that pressurization measures have been postponed and it grants a period of 30 working days to find solutions to the sector's demands.

The four-point agreement was signed by Labor Minister Oscar Zamora, Mining and Metallurgy Minister Walter Soriano, Comibol [Mining Corporation of Bolivia] President Wilfrido Salinas, and Fencomin leaders.

The agreement establishes Comibol's commitment to heed the mining cooperatives' demands and seek solutions to the problems that have been raised.

Comibol must also allow quota payments for equipment that can be transferred to Fencomin and provide technical assistance for it, in order to help Fencomin exploit minerals.

The agreement establishes a period of 30 working days during which talks between the government and Fencomin will continue.

Based on the agreement, Fencomin has decided to declare the conflict in recess and will lift pressurization measures that have been in force up to now. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Collor, Andres Perez Sign Amazon Declaration

PY2107003790 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Brazil and Venezuela will work together to prevent the depredation of the Amazon forest. In a joint declaration released at the end of the meeting held today in the Venezuelan town of Santa Elena, Presidents Fernando Collor de Mello and Carlos Andres Perez ratified their governments' intention to give priority attention to the defense of the Amazon environment which they see as patrimony of the regional states. They also stressed the importance given by their countries to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, the provisions of which represent full guarantees of the exclusive right and responsibility of their presidents over the conservation and rational exploitation of the regional natural resources.

They also stressed the importance of activities of the Special Commission for the Defense of the Environment, and the programs for protecting the ecology, the economy, and the biological diversity.

The two presidents also decided to insist on the implementation of integrated programs for border cooperation, dealing with health, transport, communications, education, sanitation, and protection of the environment among other areas. For this purpose, they decided to create the Brazilian-Venezuelan Commission for Border Cooperation which will meet for the first time during the second half of 1990.

President Collor expressed his satisfaction to President Perez over the conclusion of the highway that will link the common border with the Venezuelan highway system. President Collor reiterated the priority attention his government gives to the construction of the BR-174 highway between Boa Vista and the BV-8 border marker.

Collor and Perez met at the BV-8 border marker before visiting the Brazilian Army Platoon at Vila de Pacaraima where they held the first working meeting. They then crossed the border and dedicated the highway that links the BV-8 border marker with Caracas.

They then went to the Venezuelan Government guest house in Santa Elena where they had lunch and held another meeting. Present at the meeting for Brazil were Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek, Justice Minister Bernardo Cabral, Army Minister Carlos Tinoco, and Presidential Secretary General Marcos Coimbra. For Venezuela, Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo, and Bolivar State Governor (Andres Velazquez) attended the meeting.

FRG Minister Views Environmental Grant Plan

PY2007184490 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] FRG Economic Cooperation Minister Juergen Warnke met with President Fernando Collor in Brasilia to discuss how money earmarked for programs to preserve the Brazilian environment will be used.

Minister Warnke arrived at Planalto Palace accompanied by a unique delegation made up of 20 FRG journalists who are reporting on FRG investments designed to preserve the environment.

During the meeting with President Collor, which lasted a little over half an hour, they discussed various topics, especially preservation of the environment. Warnke wanted to learn about Brazilian ecology.

The FRG minister also met with Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek and Environment Secretary Jose Lutzenberger. During the meeting they discussed how an FRG donation of $150 million—more than 13 billion cruzeiros—for the Brazilian environment will be used.

Minister Rezek said that this money is not enough but that the FRG gesture has a very significant political meaning because it is the first industrialized country to invest in the preservation of another country's environment.

During a news conference Minister Warnke explained that the FRG donation for the Brazilian environment is part of a pilot program and that the European Community will soon make new proposals to preserve the ecology. Juergen Warnke believes that Brazil's priority areas are the Amazon jungle, the Sao Paulo seacoast, and the Caraja Region.

The FRG economic cooperation minister explained that the money will be given to Brazil over a three-year period. The FRG Government intends to supervise the use of this money in Brazil.

Iranian Mission To Meet Rezek, Sign Agreements

PY2107130090 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] This morning an Iranian Government delegation headed by Deputy Minister of Petroleum [words indistinct]. The delegation will meet in Rio de Janeiro with Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] President Luiz Otavio da Mota and in Brasilia with Foreign

Minister Francisco Rezek. The delegation intends to sign agreements for the purchase of food and other Brazilian products.

* Collor's Image Tarnishes; Popularity Declines

90SM0181A Sao Paulo ISTOE in Portuguese
4 Jul 90 pp 16-19

[Article by Francisco Viana and Inacio Muzzi]

[Text] President Fernando Collor de Mello and his "people"—the term he uses every time he addresses the Brazilian public—are definitely not speaking the same language. On the same day when, in a speech marking his 100th day in office, he was rehashing his claim that his administration is redeeming all the commitments he made during the election campaign, DataFolha completed a survey that showed that a large portion of the population is disappointed with the president's performance. Collor pretended that his image has not been tarnished during these 100 days. However, presidential spokesman Claudio Humberto Rosa e Silva, after laying eyes on the survey figures released on Saturday, 23 June, by Datafolha, in which the administration's popularity plummeted from its glittering 71 percent of approval on the eve of the inauguration to a pallid 36 percent, arrogantly tossed out the comment: "That poll was taken by the FOLHA editors. We are going to wait for an Ibope [Brazilian Opinion and Statistics Institute] poll to come out before we assess things." The director of DataFolha, sociologist Antonio Manoel Teixeira Mendes, an experienced pollster adverse to getting into shouting matches, responded gracefully: "The spokesmen's statements were emotional reactions. They do not recognize any logical reasoning."

Teixeira Mendes is right. If Rosa e Silva had bothered to look back in history—however briefly—he would perceive the great gap between his intemperate statements and reality. First of all, because no one needs statistics to confirm Collor's blatant drop in popularity. It is obvious to the man in the street, and can easily be measured by the thermometer of the strikes, the mobilization of civil servants that has stalled the streamlining of the government machinery, and the frequent short-circuits between the administration and the legislative and judiciary branches. As if that were not enough, Rosa e Silva could look back at the scene as it stood a month ago when the figures from the polls taken by Datafolha, Ibope, and Vox Populi (a Minas polling firm that regularly measures the mood of the population under an exclusive arrangement with Planalto palace) virtually converged. At that time, the spokesman was jubilant about Collor's popularity, just as he had rejoiced at the end of the second round of the elections when DataFolha accurately predicted Collor's victory over Lula right after the polls closed. There is only one difference between his past enthusiasm and today's arrogance: The administration would now rather not risk undergoing the ordeal of another Ibope poll.

What the DataFolha poll did was to give statistical form to evidence that is more than widely known. The figures are impressive. The "shirtless ones"—the so-called "povao" or underclass, whom Collor has become accustomed to address directly without going through political parties and unions—seem to be the most frustrated. Hopes for an administration that would be rated somewhere between "excellent" and "good," fueled 100 days ago by 75 percent of those who earn from one to five minimum wages a month, fell to only 37 percent. The finding becomes even clearer when educational level is substituted for the income bracket criteria: Then only 39 percent of a contingent of 75 percent still believe that better days for Brazil are just over the horizon. In contrast, the ranks of the pessimists are swelling daily—from one percent to 10 percent, still according to the survey that analyzed the dissatisfactions of 5,251 voters scattered among 202 municipalities on 18 and 19 June. Rosa e Silva may have an exceptional admiration for the tactics of an ostrich, or at least insist on conveying that image so common in Brazilian life, but this does not mean that everyone in the government likes to keep their eyes closed as if the Brazil of the Collor administration was one thing and the real Brazil something else. Anyone with common sense is bound to notice a finding in the survey that stands out from the rest: Despite its initial seductiveness clothed in the rhetoric of the "single well-aimed shot" fired by the president to bring down hyperinflation, the economic stabilization plan has lost steam and almost no one believes in it anymore. The exceptions are the 31 percent of the population in the country's ten largest cities who stubbornly label it "good." Or 39 percent—if you add in the voters in the "boondocks." Even those who voted for Collor have turned their backs on him. Prior to the inauguration, 86 percent were betting on the president's success; now only 49 percent are.

What do the royal strategists think of this battered image? According to palace sources, Collor does not need warning signals from any poll—whether conducted by Ibope, Vox Populi, or DataFolha—to tell him that his popularity is declining. On that point the numbers published by FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in its 23 June edition merely confirmed the suspicion that Collor, despite having always retained the initiative, has broken 30 years' worth of records on popularity losses. This is an extremely uncomfortable position if you compare it with presidents of a country like the United States, where the trend usually runs the other way, i.e., toward an improvement in image. For example, Eisenhower (1953), took off from a rating of 68 percent to climb to 74 percent during the first 100 days of his administration. Nixon (1969) went from 59 percent to 65 percent; Reagan (1981) from 51 percent to 67 percent; and, finally, George Bush (1989) saw his popularity rise from 51 percent to 58 percent. These data come from the prestigious Roper Center Review of Public Opinion and Polling, published by one of the world's largest centers for public opinion research.

If U.S. methodological criteria had been used in the Brazilian surveys, the foundering of the presidential ship during its 100-day voyage would have been even more of a disaster.

Ricardo Pinheiro Pena, president of Soma Market Research in Brasilia, goes straight to the heart of the question: "Here in Brazil, you give respondents an out by including a third category, that of "fair." Not so in the United States, where the question is framed so as to leave no room for fence-sitting; you are either for or against the government. As Pinheiro Pena sees it, the government is experiencing "a dramatic situation, with the prospect of sending the popularity ratings into the red unless it improves administrative efficiency very soon."

There is another way to look at things. Marcos Coimbra, of Vox Populi, developed a readily understood theory that Collor, his longtime friend, has adopted and is disseminating. That is, the country, anesthetized by decades of authoritarianism, has lost the ability to live with institutional normality in the tense terrain of relations between the government and the legislature, the judiciary, and society. "The administration should not get depressed about the poll's indications of its unpopularity. Such courting of society is a thing of the past." To those who try to draw a parallel with the profile of Collor's image and that of Sarney amid the frustration that followed the euphoria of the Cruzado Plan, Coimbra responds simply: "Collor was elected, Sarney was not. It is a different story. It is because the public is unaccustomed to living in a democracy that it submits the government to monthly plebiscites." By his calculations, it would be more reasonable to judge the administration after it passes the 1,000 day milepost. That would really give the government time to show what it can do."

"It is a tempting landmark, and certainly technically realistic. It happens, however, that Collor, while dealing with enemies on a number of fronts—everything from inflation to the bureaucracy; the exchange of heavy artillery fire with the unions; the legislators, whether "colloridos" or not; and the labor court judges—must face elections in October. Elections at which not only the governorships are at stake but which will, experts say, replace 70 percent of the faces in Congress and lay out the new topography of the opposition and governmental alliances. On this point too, the latest DataFolha poll is a fertile source of indicators unfavorable to the government.

In Brazil's interior regions, where the "collorido" voting strength still pulsates, his popularity has dropped from 76 percent to 42 percent. In the state capitals it has receded from 64 percent to 26 percent. In key states like Rio de Janeiro and Rio Grande do Sul—both Brizola strongholds—the administration has built up only animosity. The figures on those who expect an increase in unemployment do not lie: 66 percent in Rio, 59 percent in Rio Grande. Nor is the national average of 59 percent particularly palatable. At the same time, there are piles of complaints of losses in wage purchasing power: 52 percent of the voters in Rio and 55 percent in Rio Grande do Sul feel that their paychecks have shrunk. The national average is worrisome: 47 percent.

Collor seems to be aware that it is impossible to govern all alone, by alternating drastic measures and marketing appeals. He also seems just as aware that it is time to break the vicious circle powered by improvisation and political isolation. Prodded by the finding of wider and wider cracks in the government's image, Collor reinforced a message to his ministers. He indicated that contrary to expectations, the map of the power structure in Brasilia might change prior to 3 October. The criteria for a possible tinkering relate to control over inflation and the dialogue with the unions and the Congress. It is easy to figure out who is walking along the razor's edge—no more and no less than a trio of key ministers: Zelia Cardoso de Mello (Economy), Rogerio Magri (Labor), and Bernardo Cabral (Justice).

It was no coincidence that on Wednesday, 27 June, Collor broke with routine and, instead of flying from Casa da Dinda to Planalto palace by helicopter, made a tactical stop at Alvorada Palace. Waiting for him were two top-level "toucan" [Brazilian Social Democracy Party—PSDB] legislators—Senator Fernando Henrique Cardoso, the party's senate leader, and Deputy Euclydes Scaico, leader in the Chamber of Deputies. With them was Minister of Education Carlos Chiarelli who had invited Cardoso and Scaico to breakfast with the president. It was a relaxed conversation, and was interpreted by the "toucans" as the first move by the government toward reaching an understanding with opposition forces. Collor engaged in some self-criticism and acknowledged that he is partly responsible for the short circuits in relations with the Congress. And, without mincing words, he told his guests that he was personally committed to restoring "normality in the relations with the legislature."

Cardoso politely put his finger on the sore point, saying: "It is hard to attain constitutional normality when provisional measures are handed down one after another." Collor defended himself by holding out his hand. He said the provisional measures had been dictated by the urgency of circumstances, but would soon be employed only under exceptional conditions. Then he confided that he had thought of not reissuing Measure No. 190 that authorizes the president of the Superior Labor Court to annul decisions made by regional courts in favor of wage readjustments—a measure that was defeated in the first week of June. I did not want to put the team in a bad spot," Collor said, regretfully. The breakfast ended with a strong statement that was music to the ears of the "toucans." "I will be the last president under the presidential form of government, and the first one under the parliamentary system."

Back in the Congress, Cardoso did not hide his pleasure. The road had been opened for a dialogue and now it was time to wait to see what actually happens. Without mincing words, he warned "We must not unnecessarily create problems that would deliver the administration into the hands of the Right." Decoding what transpired during Collor's breakfast with the PSDB leaders, one can easily arrive at a pair of obvious conclusions; namely, that Collor has decided to take the initiative in putting together an alliance—even if tenuous—with the PSDB

for the 3 October elections, and that the position of Bernardo Cabral does not look good at all. After all, it was the minister of justice who gave the final word on the burning question of Provisional Measure 190. So, if the ministerial shakeup should take place prior to the elections, there would be no more logical move than to replace Cabral with a crowned head from the "toucans."

Whatever the president's strategy, the administration's credibility is at a low ebb, the economic plan has collapsed and without these, there is no political marketing plan, however sophisticated and daring, that can win an election. One has only to look at the symbolic trajectory of Sarney. Thanks to the illusion of the Cruzado Plan, PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] governors were elected from one end of Brazil to the other, only to eventually find themselves held at bay even in their historic fiefdom of Maranhao.

Collor has certainly expected the worst ever since he discovered, two months ago in an Ibope poll, a statistic that was partly obscured by the mist: 30 percent of the population did not believe he would be able to keep his campaign promises. At the time, Ibope surveys said the president enjoyed the trust of 67 percent of the public and 74 percent were backing the stabilization plan. Today, there are no more optimistic figures to disguise the uncertainties. The news that land on the president's desk tell of an extremely tough election campaign ahead, with few possibilities for victory in the Northeast, and narrow victories in races that have little impact. In that case then, these are news decreeing the end of the economic plan.

A shining example of the latter was the gathering held Friday, 22 June, at the offices of MBE Associates, a Sao Paulo consulting firm. Using the birthday of former Central Bank President Affonso Celso Pastore as an excuse, a group of well-known economists spent four long hours nibbling on hors d'oeuvres and evaluating the stabilization plan. Present in addition to the guest of honor were men of the caliber of former minister Mailson da Nobrega, Persio Arida, Andre Lara Resende, and a couple of dozen more economists. Their final diagnosis: The economic plan has gone up in smoke. And, with it, the president's popularity.

Chile

Silva Cimma Discusses Integration Mechanisms

PY2107145890 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Report by Antonio Cofre]

[Text] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma has pointed out that the main objective of the upcoming contacts at the presidential level is a strengthening of integration mechanisms with Latin America. He noted that President Patricio Aylwin will make an official visit to Brazil next week and will then attend the ceremony marking the transfer of power in Peru.

Argentina's president will visit Santiago in late August and the Uruguayan chief of state will visit after that. In October the Chilean president will also visit Ecuador, Mexico, and Venezuela.

Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma emphasized that, as a Latin American country, Chile's basic objective is its reinstatement into the regional situation. The foreign minister pointed out that the strengthening of political, economic, scientific-technological, and cultural relations with these countries represents an especially important step within this policy.

The foreign minister noted that this policy is favorable for Chile in terms of implementing trade with these countries. He emphasized that, in the eyes of the world, this proposal places Chile in the forefront of Latin American economic integration. Silva Cimma expressed his optimism over the results.

[Begin Silva Cimma recording] We are optimistic; we are optimistic because the talks—which, for obvious reasons, had not been announced—are very advanced. They are particularly very advanced with Brazil and Argentina. We are also expecting the same with Uruguay, and talks have already been held with Venezuela and with Mexico. [end recording]

The foreign minister noted that it is also necessary to enhance relations with the Caribbean countries and that, for this reason, Chile has named ambassadors to Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica.

The foreign minister emphasized that the world is changing rapidly. There is a clear trend toward strengthening economic groups as the only way to cope with the new dynamics prevailing in the world, he said.

Bilateral Agreements Signed With Czechoslovakia

PY2007221790 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma has said that the government's objective in the international economic field is to develop an open policy in keeping with national interests so that Chile may benefit from international trade, credit systems, and scientific and technological progress.

The minister made this statement during a luncheon for Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier in the Diplomatic Academy. Silva Cimma added that Chile will search for new markets for its exports despite the protectionist measures that hinder international trade and frustrate the growth expectations of third world countries.

He stressed that contacts are being developed with Czechoslovakia that will allow the two countries to find common ground in the political, economic, trade, and cultural fields.

The Chilean and Czechoslovak foreign ministers signed several agreements including the renewal of the trade agreement which was suspended in 1973, an agreement that eliminates special and official diplomatic visas, the creation of the Chilean-Czechoslovak Institute, and other cooperation agreements.

The Czechoslovak minister said he was pleased with his meetings with President Patricio Aylwin, Minister Silva Cimma, and Senate President Gabriel Valdes. He said that a new stage is beginning in the relations between his country and Chile.

[Begin Dienstbier recording, in Czechoslovak with simultaneous translation into Spanish] I think that a new stage has begun. We will be able to establish new conditions in the international field, eliminating all obstacles in our real international relations. [end recording]

In a joint declaration, the two foreign ministers agreed that some encouraging factors of the new world trends are: the idea of humankind as the focal point of society, the full respect for human rights, and the need to combine economic development with an adequate life style.

Dienstbier Ends Visit, Departs

PY2107141690 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier has returned to his fatherland after a two-day visit to our country. During his visit Dienstbier took part in various activities aimed at enhancing bilateral ties with Chile. Dienstbier was seen off by Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma at Commodore Arturo Merino Benitez Airport.

During his stay (?in Santiago), Dienstbier was received by President Patricio Aylwin and Senate President Gabriel Valdes.

The Czechoslovak minister said before his departure that trade between his country and ours will depend on the skill and interest of Chilean and Czechoslovak private businessmen.

FRG Announces Renewal of Economic Aid

PY2007205890 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] The FRG Ministry of Economic Cooperation has announced that the FRG will renew economic aid to Chile, which was suspended after the 1973 military coup. The FRG is planning to lend Chile $48 million in technical cooperation. A final decision on the subject will be made next week by representatives of the two governments in Santiago. German aid to Chile under the military regime only came through nongovernment organizations.

Lawsuit Filed Against EL SIGLO Director

PY2007211690 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0450 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Santiago, 19 Jul (EFE)—The military court today confirmed its decision to file a lawsuit against Juan Andres Lagos, director of the weekly EL SIGLO, for offending the Chilean Carabineros force. The resolution was approved three votes to two in the first martial court, where a previous decision by the military court had been appealed.

The charges against Lagos, who belongs to the Communist Party of Chile, are based on an article he published about three opposition members who were kidnapped and slaughtered in 1985. In its 19 April issue, EL SIGLO holds members of the now dissolved Carabineros Communications Directorate (Dicomcar) responsible for the "case of the slaughtered men."

Commander of Southern Military Region Resigns

PY2007204990 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Major General Alejandro Gonzalez Samohod, the commander in chief of the Southern Military Region, has resigned after admitting that he was previously aware of an interview granted by an alleged Army officer to the EL MAGALLANES newspaper.

According to an official Army communique, Army Commander Augusto Pinochet has accepted Gonzalez Samohod's resignation on the grounds that he has violated the established rules under which only high-ranking Army officers or other authorized officers may make public statements.

According to the communique, Gonzalez Samohod on two occasions contacted journalist Pablo Cruz, who is the director of the PRENSA AUSTRAL newspaper and the one responsible for the interview with the Army officer, to warn him about this interview.

Gonzalez Samohod has also reported to the Army commander that even after a thorough investigation it has not been possible to identify the officer who granted the interview because the journalist refused to reveal his source.

Correction to Aylwin Swears In Minister

PY2007130690

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Aylwin Swears In Minister, Speaks on Economy" published in the 20 July Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 30, column two: Paragraph one, first sentence,

make read ...Planning and Cooperation [as heard] Minister Sergio Molina has said that...(adding editorial notation and correcting name).

Throughout item, change name of planning and cooperation minister to read: Molina.

Colombia

Gaviria Says U.S. Courts Discriminatory

PM2007141290 Paris LIBERATION in French 17 Jul 90 p 29

[Interview with President-Elect Cesar Gaviria by J.-P. Gene in Paris; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Gene] When you take office on 7 August will you maintain the state of siege?

[Gaviria] You must realize that the main instruments in the struggle against drug trafficking depend on the state of siege. It is equally true that public order is seriously under threat. There is virtually no possibility of ending the state of siege as long as these instruments are needed to combat drug trafficking. They are too important.

[Gene] Since 18 August last year 17 Colombians wanted by American courts for drug trafficking have been extradited to the United Sates, where they have mostly been sentenced to prison terms, often longer than those incurred by that country's own citizens for similar crimes.

[Gaviria] One of the problems that concern Colombians is in fact the discriminatory attitude of the American judiciary toward our nationals. Not only with regard to those extradited but also with regard to all those who have nothing to do with drugs trafficking. Therefore the problem must be tackled multilaterally to avert this U.S.-Colombian polarization. Multilateral judicial mechanisms must be devised. Extradition has displayed its weakness and limitations as the principal instrument in the struggle. It can only be a complementary mechanism. International penal measures must be introduced. [passage omitted]

Londono Urges Castro To Accept Right to Asylum

PA2107020790 Paris AFP in Spanish 2349 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Bogota, 20 Jul (AFP)—Colombia implicitly backed the Spanish Government today in the diplomatic crisis that has arisen over the past few days with Cuba by urging Fidel Castro to accept the international right to asylum. When questioned on his stance on the tense situation between the two countries, Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono said that "Colombia is a defender of the right to asylum."

The brief remark was also interpreted as a sign that the Colombian Government disapproves of the position adopted by the Cuban leader on the refugees that are at the Spanish Embassy in Havana. Colombia and Cuba broke diplomatic relations in 1980, when then-president Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala accused Fidel Castro of helping the leftist M-19 guerrillas. Nevertheless, Castro has been invited to attend the inauguration of president-elect Cesar Gaviria in Bogota on 7 August.

Castro, Gonzalez Will Not Attend Inauguration

PA2107192390 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1844 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Bogota, 21 Jul (DPA)—It was announced today that Cuban President Fidel Castro and Spanish Head of Government Felipe Gonzalez, who are currently at the center of world attention due to the case of the 18 Cuban refugees at the Spanish Embassy, probably will not be in Bogota for the inauguration ceremony of Colombia's new President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo.

According to sources close to Gaviria Trujillo, Castro will not travel to Bogota because of the delicate situation that emerged when Cuban authorities entered the Spanish Embassy in Havana to forcefully oust a man who had sought refuge there.

Gonzalez may also decline the invitation from Gaviria Trujillo, who will be sworn in at a modest ceremony on 7 August.

Gaviria Trujillo invited Gonzalez and all of the Latin American heads of state to his inauguration, although it is known that Presidents Fernando Collor de Mello of Brazil, Patricio Aylwin of Chile, and Guillermo Endara of Panama will not travel to Bogota.

The invitation to Castro had been criticized over the past few days by conservative sectors in Colombia who have not hesitated to describe the Cuban president as a "promoter of left-wing guerrillas and drug trafficking."

DAS Director Blames Murder on Escobar

PA2107203490 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] DAS [Administrative Department of Security] Director General Miguel Maza Marquez today revealed to the media the results of the investigation concerning presidential candidate Bernardo Jaramillo Ossa's murder. According to Gen. Maza, Pablo Escobar ordered and financed the political leader's assassination.

[Begin Maza recording] Drug trafficker Pablo Escobar Gaviria and one of his henchmen carried out the horrifying action that has saddened Colombian society. [end recording]

This statement was given the day after Bernardo Jaramillo Ossa's assassination. Now, four months later and following an investigation, Gen. Maza Marquez has confirmed that Pablo Escobar Gaviria planned and financed the Patriotic Union leader's murder.

Gen. Maza revealed with innumerable details that the Medellin Cartel kingpin gave John Jairo Arias Tascon the task of preparing Bernardo Jaramillo's murder. Arias Tascon, aka Pinina, was killed in Medellin. He contacted a network of drug traffickers' assassins led by Gustavo Adolfo Meza Meneses, aka El Zarco, who was arrested in Medellin and imprisoned at La Picota Jail in Bogota.

According to Gen. Maza Marquez the DAS foiled an escape plan that El Zarco's family had prepared through a lawyer known as Salomon. El Zarco's lawyer was interviewed by the "24 Horas" newscast more than two months ago and in it identified himself as Jose Salomon Lozano Cifuentes, with professional permit 40-436 issued by the Ministry of Justice.

The DAS commander also revealed that Pablo Escobar Gaviria sent checks for amounts ranging between 400,000 and 600,000 pesos to El Zarco's friend, Sandra Patricia Valencia Cordova. She also cashed several checks for 50 million pesos the same day that El Zarco was caught. Sandra Patricia Valencia Cordova is 16 years old and she was sent to the Good Shepherd Jail in Bogota one month ago because she tried to supply cocaine—camouflaged in her hair—to her friend El Zarco at La Picota Jail in Bogota.

According to the authorities, the man who perpetrated Jaramillo Ossa's murder—Andres Arturo Gutierrez Maya—is imprisoned in an annex reserved for minors at the Modelo Jail in Bogota. According to Gen. Maza, his family has not only changed their address. They have also noticeably changed their source of income and lifestyle.

The DAS investigation also states that Carlos Pizarro's killer, Gerardo Gutierrez Uribe, was the best friend of Bernardo Jaramillo Ossa's assassin.

EPL To Meet Government; Calls for Observers

PA2207042590 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] In relation to the ongoing peace process with the EPL [Popular Liberation Army], the government has assured that it is investigating the murder of leftist militants in Cordoba Department. These murders have been on the rise as the talks have been advancing.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] The date was set: The EPL will meet the government on 25 July. However, this insurgent group sent a letter to Government Minister Horacio Serpa Uribe today insisting that the process be monitored by international observers, but the minister had already rejected this proposal during the first talks because he believes that Colombian authorities are capable of handling their domestic problems.

The EPL also suggests that the Catholic Church participate in the talks and claims to be willing to promote rapprochement and dialogue with violence-generating sectors, even its staunchest rivals.

[EPL leader Marcos Jara] We agreed to also invite the paramilitaries to participate in the talks. We want them to speak out. It is sort of difficult to invite specific sectors to participate. Therefore, this means that we want to urge them to do so; they know where we are.

[Reporter] The EPL has said that the government must end the violence originating in official sectors which is violating human rights, and equates to participation in executions, torture, disappearances, cover-ups, complicity, and impunity. The EPL believes that these actions should not be used to apply pressure during the negotiations.

Peace adviser Reinaldo Gary said the following about this:

[Gary] To the extent that the peace process with the rebel groups is further consolidated, we will manage to clear the path and leave without arguments other sectors that are bent on torpedoing this aspiration of the country. [end recording]

* Role of Constituent Assembly Viewed

* Constitutionality Viewed

90SM0158A Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 8 Jun 90 p 5a

[Editorial by Jaime Castro]

[Text] By and large, the decree to which I referred in a previous article is comparable to the one that was issued to convoke the 1957 Plebiscite. At that time the Military Junta of Government was "interpreting national opinion as expressed in the accords signed by the political parties." This time, "the political will of the nation as expressed in the 11 March and 27 May elections" will have to be invoked.

This political move (the convocation by decree) is the broadest and most substantial that any government of ours can make and it must therefore be legitimized, in other words, juridically validated. How? By allowing the people to endorse it in an election that would take place a few days after it was promulgated, in other words, through a pronouncement of the citizenry, which experts regard as the genuine expression of the so-called primary constituent.

Besides approving the act of convocation, this same referendum could elect the members of the Constituent Assembly to be chosen by the people. And whoever thinks that this is a far-fetched proposal will do well to remember one event that was as clear-cut as it was effective: the 1957 plebiscite granted women the same political rights as men, and women, who until then did not enjoy the right to vote, took part in approving them!

After the results of the referendum and of the election of constituents or delegates are made public, the Assembly could meet during the final months of this year and the early months of 1991.

The government and the parties must show consistency and boldness in designing the procedure by which the Constituent Assembly will be called, and they must demonstrate the same consistency and boldness in deciding its composition and functions.

Clearly, the political sector and the country as a whole must be represented at the Assembly. Moreover, the spokesmen of the former must be of varied grassroots provenance (departmental, intendancy, territory, and national districts), while the spokesmen of the latter should, in some cases, also be from among the people (ethnic and religious minorities) and, in others, ought to be elected by the members of the economic or social forces that they represent. Some institutions (the Catholic Church and universities, for example) could be represented by their highest officials or authorities. As has been said, the guerrilla groups that pledge to demobilize and disarm should also have the right to defend their own political agenda at the Constituent Assembly.

As for its powers, we should note that if the Assembly is Constituent and not Constitutional (as the Barco administration wanted), it must be empowered to enact a new institutional order, a new constitution, without restrictions of any sort, because the country needs a legal and political system that is "in tune" with the nation's economic and social realities, which the current system is not.

To curtail its powers would mean narrowing its jurisdiction, subjecting it to restrictions that do not square with its nature, and above all, subjecting it to subsequent verification of the degree to which it obeyed the regulations that limited its powers. Its broad powers would not prevent it from deciding, on its own, not by the will of a third party, to retain and incorporate whatever principles and articles of the present constitution it deems valid.

For the above reasons, the decisions and acts of the Constituent Assembly should not be subject to the constitutionality checks that the court would no doubt conduct and that, no doubt as well, would lead us to a repeat of the experiences that were brought on by the well-known rulings of 1978 and 1981. This must not happen, because if this is a Constituent, not a Constitutional Assembly, political control can be exercised in the absence or in place of such jurisdictional control. It would function thus: whatever decisions and acts of the Assembly are not approved by a two-thirds (or three-fourths) vote of its members must be put to a referendum before they can take effect. The sole objective would be to create institutions that have a national, not a partisan and much less an interest-group character.

In conclusion, we must add that if the Constituent Assembly that is agreed upon in the days to come does not meet, because of its design or features, the requirements that would enable it to live up to the expectations that have been created among the public, then enormous frustrations of unforeseeable consequences would again arise, given the complex situation in which we find ourselves. In such a scenario it would be better to go back to the prescription of the Congress, which could also ensure a major institutional reform if the houses themselves, the administration, and the parties demonstrate the political will and capacity that an undertaking of such scope demands. Will the March and May election returns compel these traditional power centers to act in accordance with the needs of the moment and with some vision of the future?

* CGSB Issues Proposal

90SM0158B Bogota VOZ in Spanish 14 Jun 90 p 7

[Text]

The Insurgent Movement and a Political Solution

After the Colombian people voted for a Constituent Assembly on 27 May, contacts among the various political and social forces have intensified as they seek to put together specific proposals for the agenda and make-up of the Assembly.

Broad sectors are also opening up to the idea that the insurgent movement needs to take part in the National Assembly, as this would be one specific way to end the armed conflict.

We feel that our readers would be interested in seeing the proposal that the Fifth Summit Meeting of the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinator (CGSB) drafted concerning the Constituent Assembly and a political solution. The proposal is circulating widely.

For Unitary Participation in the Constituent Assembly

1. A deep crisis of State is obvious at the moment. The political system has not kept pace with the new developments that have taken place in society over the past 100 years. The Establishment and its institutions are preventing the nation from progressing, and under such conditions governments neither can nor want to tackle the country's problems.

2. The masses have expressed their determination to struggle for in-depth changes in society, to surmount the prevailing illegitimate system, and to confront the dirty war by forcing the ruling classes to accept a Constituent Assembly.

3. The CGSB has contributed for some time to the struggle for a new constitution and will continue to do so through a combined effort in both institutional and noninstitutional forums. Its goal is be in the forefront of the battle for this democratic banner by preventing the oligarchy from appropriating it to bolster its system of domination.

4. The Coordinator will fight to see to it that the substance of the new constitution is the one that it has advocated in recent years, with the understanding that it can come about only under a new democratic government of the people.

5. The make-up of the Constituent Assembly must be democratic and grassroots, and a significant portion of its members must be elected directly by trade unions and mass organizations.

6. A Constituent Assembly made up of notables and with a narrow scope would intensify the current social conflict, amid which the CGSB will continue to work for the aforementioned objectives by channeling the broad political movement generated during this struggle towards the establishment of a national constituent congress of the people.

It also indicates that the struggle for a genuinely democratic Constituent Assembly has created an important opportunity in the search for a political solution and for comprehensive negotiations to resolve the conflict. It notes that such comprehensive negotiations must be conducted jointly from the Coordinator vis-a-vis the country, adding that the new constitution must guarantee national sovereignty, the abolition of the National Security Doctrine, an end to the permanent State of Siege, the right to life, and the broadest economic and social well-being for the masses.

It must establish a patriotic army that is committed to the process of change and to Colombia's sovereignty, and must endorse an independent, nonaligned foreign policy.

* FARC Proposal

90SM0158C Bogota VOZ in Spanish 14 Jun 90 p 7

[Text]

The FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] on the Constituent Assembly

The first issue is for national public opinion to decide whether this will be a political Constituent Assembly where the various schools of thought will express themselves as parties or, in contrast, an assembly where the delegates are representatives of the country's social, economic, and cultural organizations. Simply put, the Constituent Assembly of the Colombian people. Once this essential issue has been decided, the make-up of the Constituent Assembly will have to be spelled out.

Proposal one: The Constituent Assembly will consist of 120 delegates.

Proposal two: The delegates will be: from business groups (industry, banking, commerce), 11; union organizations, 11; commune movement, 5; users organizations, 3; municipal councils, 5; university-academic-student, 10; Indian organizations, 1; environmental movement, 5; Church, 2; human-rights organizations, 2; artistic and cultural organizations, 2; consumer groups, 4; professional associations (journalists, engineers, architects, physicians, attorneys, geologists, etc), 2; retired military, 1; Armed Forces, 3; rebels, or Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinator, 3; former presidents of the republic, 6; constitutional law specialists, 4; mass media, 3; 1 from each department and 1 from each intendancy, to be popularly elected, 27; presidential candidates who have gotten more than 100,000 votes, 10.

Proposal three: The academics, who will run the Constituent Assembly, will appoint a Constituent Assembly organizing committee consisting of: a. A constitutional law specialist; b. A representative of business groups; c. A representative of the labor movement; d. A representative of academia; e. A representative of the rebels or a spokesman for them.

Proposal four: The mission of the Constituent Assembly is to draft and approve a new constitution.

Proposal five: The Constituent Assembly will be in session for 180 working days, at the end of which it will call a national plebiscite (not a referendum) to approve or reject the republic's new constitution.

Staff of the FARC, Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinator, in the mountains of Colombia, 1 June 1990

* Effectiveness Doubted

90SM0158D Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 14 Jun 90 p 3a

[Editorial by Jorge Child]

[Text] The oddest thing about the Constituent Assembly is that there is political unanimity about it. This points to, of course, the ideological and political crisis of our party system. The Liberal and Conservative parties, the Communist Party, the small right and left-wing parties, the recent electoral associations called the Movement of National Salvation and the M-19 Democratic Alliance, the guerrilla groups (with one exception, the ELN [Armed of National Liberation], all of them want to take part in the Constituent Assembly. And so do business groups, professors and students, labor unions, peasant associations....

It seems that the Constituent Assembly has become a national life raft amid the shipwreck of the state of law, destroyed by the prolonged State of Siege that has militarized the country for the past 30 years. If the guerrillas demobilize, will the violent tensions disappear? Or will paramilitary groups re-emerge, as happened in response to the truce and the amnesty of Betancur's peace? If history is any guide, the Colombian Establishment has been very closed-minded about and mistrustful of those seeking to vie for its oligopolistic positions of dominance and parasitic enrichment, especially if these competitors are from guerrilla movements that want to change the system. Fearing that they will be the victims of another extermination plan, the guerrillas, who today acknowledge that their armed revolutionary agenda has run its course, are looking to the Constituent Assembly as a new political forum, thus reconciling with the bourgeoisie.

The unanimity that exists today about the call for a Constituent Assembly may turn into ideological unanimity within the Assembly itself. If this comes to pass,

it will be the conventional, traditional politicians who will win out...otherwise, the forum will dissolve.

The groups on the effervescent Colombian left are today seeking a dialogue of integration with the oligarchy that they used to combat, perhaps because they think that perestroyka did away with the Establishment's class-oriented desire to exploit and dominate. What these leftists do not realize, however, is that they are not enrolling in a revolution on the march, as in the days of the 1936 tax, social, and agrarian reforms under President Lopez Pumarejo. Rather, they are joining a crisis-ridden system hemmed in by military strategies and hypnotized by the conservative doctrine of privatizing government, and by the wonders of a market economy in a society suffering from the problem of having many disadvantaged people who cannot turn to any market.

In the excellent magazine OPCION (V-90) we read the following comment on the surrender of the Colombian left: "The new political movement seeks consensus, salvation, and national coexistence...it does not see the class struggle, capitalist exploitation in its reading of the country's realities...and as a solution it offers firmer alliances with the bourgeoisie...." The main instrument of this alliance today is the Constituent Assembly.

And since, according to the new right-wing dogma the rebuilding of socialism is absurdly utopian, it is useless to investigate why the socialist system failed in the Soviet Union and other countries; instead of adopting the socialist dream, we should embrace the American dream even though we do not have that country's resources and power, etc.

Ecuador

President Departs on Official Visit to U.S.

PA2207032290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1745 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Quito, 21 Jul (EFE)—Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja travelled to the United States today on a 4-day official economic and commercial visit in response to an invitation from U.S. President George Bush.

Borja left Quito Air Base at 0857 (1357 GMT) for Miami. He will travel from there to Washington tomorrow on Bush's personal airplane.

On Sunday, Borja will hold a private conversation and play a game of tennis with President Bush, and will be greeted by Ecuadoran officials in that country, Latin American ambassadors, and representatives of private enterprise and international organizations.

Borja will be the first Latin American head of state to go to the United States since the Bush administration proposed the so-called Plan for the Americas, under which Ecuador could reduce its foreign debt by $437 million.

Borja's agenda in the United States will include meetings with U.S. officials, directors of the IMF, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the World Bank, and representatives of the OAS.

Borja is accompanied by Government Minister Andres Vallejo, Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez, Industry Minister Jacinto Jouvin, Finance Minister Jorge Gallardo, Public Administration Secretary General Washington Herrera, and some 40 local newsmen.

Rodrigo Borja will return to Ecuador on 24 July after a visit to the capitol.

Ordonez Criticizes Trade Agreement With U.S.

PA2107190290 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Jorge Moreno Ordonez, director of the Democratic People's Movement, has criticized President Rodrigo Borja's upcoming trip to the United States. Moreno Ordonez accused the nation's authorities of signing an agreement with the United States that will further increase the country's foreign debt and promote U.S. investment in Ecuador to create the so-called free trade zones. Moreno Ordonez then accused President Borja of betraying the nation by signing this agreement.

[Begin Moreno Ordenez recording] I must alert the Ecuadoreans to the fact that the purpose of this trip is to sign an agreement with the U.S. Government within the framework of George Bush's strategy of the so-called Enterprise for The Americas program. These agreements include measures that will only further increase the foreign debt, promote U.S. investment in Ecuador, and create the so-called free trade zones. All of these seek to make Ecuador more dependent on the United States. These agreements have already been taken into consideration in the assembly plant project law and will turn Ecuador into a simple [word indistinct] workshop for the benefit of the economic interests of U.S. millionaires. These agreements will entail very grave consequences, such as greater dependency, greater loss of national sovereignty, and the most merciless exploitation of the Ecuadoran people. [end recording]

Paraguay

Argana's Remarks Prompt Calls for Resignation

PY2107184090

[Editorial Report] Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish on 21 July carries on page 7 a 600-word report on a statement made by Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana during a political meeting at the center for Colorado Party economists in Asuncion on 19 July.

The report quotes Argana as saying that "we will make the Colorado Party find its historical truth, its democratic truth. The Colorado Party will never slip out of our hands. We will not bear the historical shame of the

Colorado Party falling from power while the party was under our command. We will plot. We will stage a revolution, if necessary, but we will not let the Colorado Party fall from power...."

The same newspaper carries on page six a 300-word report on reaction to these remarks from Blas N. Riquelme, Colorado Party third vice president, who is quoted as saying that the statement was "unnecessary and inappropriate." Riquelme is also quoted as categorically ruling out the idea of "plotting or staging a revolution to maintain the party in power."

Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish on 21 July carries on page 3 a 500-word report on the reaction of Domingo Laino, senator for the Authentic Radical Liberal Party. The report quotes Laino as saying that his party "voices its great concern about the wrong—I would even say perverted—mentality of the acting Colorado Party president, because losing or winning elections is an absolutely normal occurrence in democratic countries." The report then quotes Laino as saying that "the statements by Mr. Luis Maria Argana are so serious that if he does not retract them he should resign his post as minister and even his post as Colorado Party president. His statements are absolutely opposed to the objectives outlined by high-ranking Armed Forces commanders and by prominent executive branch officials."

The same newspaper carries on the same page a 300-word report on the reaction of Febrerista Party Senator Fernando Vera, who is quoted as saying that Argana's remarks are those of a totalitarian who advocates the possibility of his party "remaining in power through force and violence." The report then quotes Vera as saying that "Argana must resign, taking his dictatorial and violent position to other political activities, in order to clear the way for the general process of transition toward democracy."

The same newspaper carries on page 2 a 400-word report on the reaction of Febrerista Party President Euclides Acevedo, who is quoted as saying that "Argana is plotting against the government and against democracy. If he plans to plot whenever the Colorado Party is democratically displaced from power, it means that he will be plotting against the people, and plotting against the people inevitably leads to political death."

Decree Names Delegation to Peruvian Inauguration

PY2107144590 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 20 Jul 90 p 12

[Excerpts] The executive branch has issued Decree 6411 designating a special delegation to represent the Paraguayan Government at the Peruvian presidential inauguration. The diplomatic mission will be headed by Interior Minister General Orlando Machuca Vargas. [passage omitted]

The decree establishes that Dr. Angel Roberto Seifart will be a member of the delegation and that he will have the rank of extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador on special mission.

B.A. Carlos Scavone, Paraguayan charge d'affaires [words indistinct], will also be in the delegation. He will have the rank of counselor on special mission.

Peru

Fujimori Plans Measures Against Violence

PY2207002690 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2311 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Lima, 21 Jul (EFE)—Peruvian President-elect Alberto Fujimori told the press today that he will adopt "effective" measures against the political violence that is affecting the country. However, he added that he cannot yet reveal details of these measures for obvious reasons.

When asked by reporters about the wave of violence unleashed in the country only a week before the presidential inauguration on 28 July, Fujimori said that once he becomes president of the republic "special measures will be adopted to guarantee normal activity in the country as well as business activity so as to attract foreign investments."

Fujimori added that in his inauguration speech on 28 July, he will specifically refer to "moralization and pacification plans, and to the crisis that is currently affecting Peru."

He will also refer to the situation in the country over the past few days.

A wave of violence has been affecting Peru over the past 48 hours. In Lima, two large enterprises were set on fire last night. One of the companies affected is a home appliance dealer, "Hogar," which suffered losses estimated at $900,000, and the other is the paper import company "Lau Chun."

To these attacks attributed to Shining Path, we can add the murder of the "Lima Caucho" [as received] manager and three [as received] of his bodyguards.

In Ancash Department, the Patay hydroelectric plant and the Pickup substation were put out of service last night by terrorist actions. The damage has been estimated at $3 million.

This morning, in San Marcos, Ancash Department, the terrorists murdered a former mayor of this town and his cousin, while a professor from the same place managed to escape but was seriously wounded.

As a result of the attacks, Huaraz, Ancash Department capital, and four provinces will have no electricity for at least a month, local authorities reported.

Garcia 'Very Pleased' With Fujimori's Cabinet

PY2207222890 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Excerpts] President Garcia has expressed confidence that the designated chairman of the council of ministers will not adopt shock economic measures, and has termed Juan Hurtado Miller as an experienced professional. He also recalled that the people have voted against economic shock measures. [passage omitted]

[Begin Garcia recording] I would like to say that I am very pleased with President Fujimori's designated cabinet. I think Mr. Hurtado Miller is a very experienced man, who has never stopped studying, updating his knowledge. His way of thinking shows us that, as he has said, there will be no traumatic measures, no shock which, in an attempt to cure the illness and stop the suffering can kill the patient. I believe he deserves our immediate support and that all Peruvians must give him credit. I think that the presence of well-known intellectuals and capable, prestigious people in the appointed cabinet may lead us to believe that the next administration will be good. Mr. Hurtado Miller's statements in his first news conference have been very positive. On 10 June, the Peruvians voted against the economic shock and the traumatic experiences contained therein. [passage omitted] Some commentators began to say that a shock might be implemented under other names, but Mr. Hurtado has said that the concept of economic shock should be eliminated from the political dictionary and that he will do things with justice. I believe that if he said so, he will do so.

[Reporter] What message would you deliver to the country about the violent acts that we have been witnessing barely seven days before the inauguration of the new president, and about the conditions in which Mr. Fujimori will receive the country?

[Garcia] I believe the terrorist groups are competing to show who is more daring, who can better stain the image of the country during the brilliant celebrations of the presidential inauguration. The terrorists are doing that because they know that some seven presidents are getting ready to come to the country for these festivities. [passage omitted]

I believe that these attacks are the last, desperate attempts to attract the attention of the international media, whose members will also attend the inauguration, and to prevent Peru's becoming the protagonist of an important democratic experience. No terrorist group will be able, however, to stain these celebrations because several presidents and foreign chiefs of state will come to Peru to witness this democratic experience which will show that, despite all the problems being experienced in Latin America, we reaffirm our liberty and our conviction that we will solve our problems through democratic means. [end recording]

Fidel Castro To Attend Fujimori Inauguration

PY2207203290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1923 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Lima, 22 Jul (EFE)—Pro-government newspaper HOY today published an article quoting Foreign Ministry sources that Cuban President Fidel Castro will attend, together with six other presidents, the inauguration of Peruvian President-elect Alberto Fujimori on 28 July.

The Peruvian press has been speculating on Castro's visit, but official sources have not confirmed his presence yet. In view of the worsening of the so-called "embassy crisis," which started when Cuban dissidents began to seek refuge at the Spanish and Czechoslovak Embassies in Havana, the rumors about Castro's visit to Lima began to lose importance.

Peruvian President Alan Garcia, however, seemed to confirm the rumors yesterday, when he attributed the increased action of terrorist groups in the last few days to the announced presence of seven chiefs of state, whose names he did not mention, at the inauguration on 28 July.

So far, only Argentine President Carlos Menem, Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora, Colombian President Virgilio Barco, Chilean President Patricio Aylwin, and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez have confirmed their attendance.

It has been unofficially announced, however, that Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo will also attend the ceremony.

According to the article published in HOY, Castro will arrive in Lima on 27 July, the day before the inauguration. A security committee of 115 Cuban policemen will accompany Castro, as it did when he attended Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello's inauguration in Brasilia last March.

The Cuban leader visited Peru in 1974 at the invitation of General Juan Velasco Alvarado, who was president of the nationalist military regime that took power in 1968 after a military coup and was then ousted in 1975.

According to the Peruvian Foreign Ministry, 50 official government missions and the members of 27 international organizations will attend the inauguration of the new president, who won the elections as Change 90's candidate. Fujimori will replace President Garcia, who was elected as the candidate of the center- leftist American Popular Revolutionary Alliance.

MRTA Establishes Conditions for Peace Dialogue

PA2207183590 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1738 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Lima, 22 Jul (NOTIMEX)—Victor Polay, top leader of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), today established the conditions for beginning a peace dialogue with the government of President-elect Alberto Fujimori.

Polay, who headed the "great escape" from "Miguel Castro" jail that was carried out by 47 guerrillas, granted a clandestine interview to a private television channel to explain his current political position.

Fujimori recently said that his government would be willing to talk as long as the guerrillas turn in their weapons.

"The new government made a proposal, but it is asking us to surrender, and we are not going to issue a blank check," the MRTA chief commented.

The guerrilla forces asked the future government to guarantee the dismantling of extreme rightist paramilitary groups, the punishment of those responsible for the "dirty war," and the end of torture and institutionalized violence. They also demanded an end to the militarization of emergency zones and the return of local power to civilian authorities.

Polay recalled that more than 50 percent of Peruvian territory is in a state of emergency, and authority is held by the military.

The guerrilla leader said that if Fujimori accepts his proposal, the "MRTA is willing to hold talks to change the country and transform it."

He cautioned that as long as there is hunger and misery in Peru, the MRTA will continue to exist because, he stressed, peace is "the result of social justice."

The guerrilla leader discussed his spectacular escape and noted that there was no complicity on the part of prison personnel or the security police.

He also denied an intelligence police report, according to which suspected members of Colombia's M-19 [19 April Movement] and Ecuador's Alfaro Lives, Dammit participated in the building of the 300-meter tunnel used in the escape.

The MRTA, which has Marxist leanings, is considered the second largest guerrilla group in Peru. The largest is the Shining Path (Maoist), which commemorated its 10th anniversary this year with the beginning of "the people's war."

Channel 2, a private station, reported that the interview with Polay, the police's most wanted man, was carried out through a questionaire that was sent to him and which he answered in front of the cameras somewhere in Lima.

Special Cooperation Agreement With U.S. Resumed

PY2007202790 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] The United States and Peru have reestablished scientific and technological cooperation in the geological, hydrological, and cartographic sciences. This cooperation was resumed today with the signing of an agreement by Energy and Mines Minister Mario Samame Boggio and U.S. Charge d'Affaires Mark Dion.

The signing ceremony at the Energy and Mining Ministry was attended by Darrell Hart, an official of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Police Chief Evaluates Strike Against Guerrillas

PY2107123090 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 18 Jul 90 pp 13-16

[Interview with General Fernando Reyes Rojas, chief director of the Peruvian Technical Police, by Mariela Balbi and Victor Caycho in Lima; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [LA REPUBLICA] General, how would you evaluate the recent Dircote [Antiterrorist Directorate] actions against the Shining Path? Was the blow very strong, somewhat strong, or...?

[Reyes] Let us start on the basis that the Shining Path has always boasted that the police have been facing the popular guerrilla army and the front (the organization created for the "next state administration") but not the party. This recent blow hit the party; the documents we have confiscated say so. We dealt the Shining Path a blow where we wanted to. It was a good blow, and it struck the organization's brain: the party.

[LA REPUBLICA] Are the attacks that have taken place in Huancayo and Lima since the Monterrico raid the thrashings of a dying organization or do they indicate that the Shining Path is recovering?

[Reyes] I would not say that we are seeing the thrashing of a dying organization but rather its strategy and tactics. They were hit and they answered immediately, trying to prove they were not hurt. Look, a part of the party was touched...

[LA REPUBLICA] How important was the blow?

[Reyes] We cut off the arm they used to reach the people because we confiscated practically all their propaganda material. The distribution of reports, guidance, and messages was cut off. The organization's entire communications system is practically paralyzed because that part of the apparatus was destroyed. They are having problems organizing their meetings to evaluate their actions and give instructions. That apparatus was in charge of bringing together the people responsible for the different echelons in the country to give them guidance. It was also responsible for getting housing and delivering propaganda. In the past the political apparatus worked very well.

[LA REPUBLICA] Has the blow affected their military apparatus?

[Reyes] Their military actions do not depend on this apparatus, but on a different echelon. But their military organization had to respond to that blow. They tried to make their militants believe that they had not been hit or touched, and that the police report was a farce or a lie. This is a psychological effort meant to reassure their elements. They will have to reorganize the apparatus we destroyed. They can no longer maintain a presence in

many locations and influence peasants because all their materials have been confiscated. They are probably having serious problems in reorganizing their forces and recruiting new members. This situation must have caused many people to leave the organization...

[LA REPUBLICA] Because of their problems...

[Reyes] Of course. Many people say that the police do not take action. But we have no intention of helping the process of creating terrorists. Many people are forced in one way or another to participate. If we send them to jail, they will then be indoctrinated there.

[LA REPUBLICA] Therefore, the best thing for the Shining Path to do is to attack.

[Reyes] That's right. But their attacks are useless; they do not have political objectives. When they carry out their attacks they must also have an immediate political objective.

[LA REPUBLICA] General, some people say that the police are maintaining a triumphant attitude and that you are treating this as if the Shining Path was defeated...

[Reyes] We never said that...

[LA REPUBLICA] The Shining Path can recover quickly because it is a flexible organization...

[Reyes] We are working on preventing that from happening. Last year Dircote worked almost nine months on the central highway where the MRDP (People's Revolutionary Movement) had organized armed strikes. During that time there were no attacks or distributions of pamphlets due to our presence. We cannot talk about a triumphant attitude. We are in a process of permanent struggle.

[LA REPUBLICA] What organizations were specifically affected?

[Reyes] The propaganda apparatus and the support groups where Sybila Arredondo was working. They obtained medicine, organized folk dancing and theater activities, and so on. The organization's support apparatus that carried out actions in support of propaganda and the support group itself was affected, as was the economy department, which gathered the necessary resources—from contributions in some cases and from quotas in others. Also affected was the sector that handled international relations and mail with foreign countries. They received the mail and then took it to the central committee run by Shining Path leader Abimael. And the Popular Aid—which was already hit two years ago with a raid on a house in Zarate and the discovery of the participation of lawyers Tito Valle and Yobanca—was also affected. These organizations are not military, but they do help the political and military development of the party because they are in charge of getting ammunition, medicine, clothing, and money; taking the mail to the different levels; holding meetings with these elements; and all food supply activities. The apparatus that is in charge of general administration has been broken. They are without logistics, and the organization's central committee does not have the component to carry out the necessary actions. [passage omitted]

Police Report Wave of Terrorist Attacks

PY2007221490 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2056 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Lima, 19 Jul (AFP)—The National Police have reported that Peruvian attorney Maximo Rico, legal adviser to the Ayacucho Department Development Corporation, and two other persons were killed today by Shining Path terrorists in that Andean region of Peru.

The legal adviser was killed by a Shining Path commando as he was sleeping in his house. Ciro Galvez and Sixto Nolasco, two Ayacucho Department Development Corporation workers, were killed after being kidnapped as they were traveling to Vilcashuaman on 12 July.

Nine days before the transfer of power, the authorities also reported that about 30 "booby traps" planted by the Shining Path in various areas in Huancayo, 250 km east of Lima, were detonated or defused by the police. The devices were planted mostly in high schools and other crowded areas.

Two bloody clashes between a military patrol and two Shining Path columns also took place between 17 and 18 July near the towns of Guayaquil and Paraiso in Huanuco Department, 450 km northeast of Lima. There were 10 subversives killed in the clashes. According to the source of this information, no casualties were reported among the troops.

One of the military patrols combing this area, where some of the 48 Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) members who escaped from a Lima penitentiary 11 days ago are apparently located, also raided the river ports of Conchan and Anveres, detaining three subversives and seizing arms, ammunition, and explosives in the operation.

In Lima, the police have reported that they are investigating if the death of four Peruvian police officers on 18 July—when the helicopter in which they were flying crashed into a hill about 20 km east of Lima—"could have been an act of sabotage against the unit, which struggles against subversion and drug trafficking."

Interior Minister Agustin Mantilla has ordered a thorough investigation into the accident to establish if "there was sabotage," as the helicopter was recently put into service in perfect condition.

In Lima on 18 July, an MRTA commando—made up of four women and three men—seized medicines and medical equipment from the Juan Pablo private clinic in the populous district of Comas, the police reported. No injuries were reported.

Four students of the Peruvian-North American Institute of Cusco, 1,300 km southeast of Lima, were injured when dynamite charges exploded in the institute's restrooms. These explosions also caused property damage to the building and neighboring houses, the police noted.

Uruguay

Minister Brito on Armed Forces, Personnel Plans

PY2107182890 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Excerpt] National Defense Minister Dr. Mariano Brito has said that the Armed Forces represent a necessary component in the implementation of the state of law. In these terms, Dr. Mariano Brito has said, the Armed Forces also represent a support for the exercise of political power.

In remarks to our radio station, the defense minister pointed out that, within this context, the Defense Ministry will propose special salary hikes for military personnel and an adjustment of funds for materiel and arms within the five-year general budget for salaries, expenditures, and investments.

[Begin Brito recording] The executive branch's ideas on national defense involve two basic facts. The first is the necessity of the Armed Forces; that is, the Armed Forces represent a necessary component in implementing the state of law. They represent a support for the exercise of political power in keeping with the Constitution and the law.

Therefore, budget estimates must respond to this concept of necessity, a necessity that—I repeat—is in keeping with the Constitution and the law.

On the other hand, the second fact that must be taken into account is the appropriate balance between the necessity of the Armed Forces and the funds available to the country. According to the funds available to the country, the budget will determine the very dimensions of the Armed Forces and its modernization, its application of technological requirements, scientific progress, etc.

[Reporter] In concrete and specific terms, how do you make necessity fit with and be compatible with possibilities?

[Brito] Look, this involves applying a universal rule: To a large extent, necessities are met as a function of the means available.

[Reporter] Of course, but I am specifically asking you, Minister Brito, if a proposal has been drawn up or if an idea has been outlined on whether there will or there will not be salary hikes for the Armed Forces. Will there be investments in materiel and arms? What other types of projections are there? This is my question.

[Brito] Of course. Now that you have pinpointed the aim of your question, I will happily answer.

The necessity of improving the situation or increasing the salaries of military personnel has indeed been clearly determined. This has been clearly determined.

Regarding investments in materiel and arms, this is being done or will be done to the extent that it becomes necessary; it is necessary to keep the Armed Forces at a level at which they are able to carry out their duties. However, this involves precise requirements to make the means proportional to the necessities.

[Reporter] Do you have percentages, Dr. Brito?

[Brito] No, not at this moment, because we are still working it out, we are still studying this matter. I cannot give you any results when we are still studying this matter.

After study, preparation, and guidelines, etc., after the final budget is drawn up and presented to Congress, then there will certainly be percentages available. They will be announced without any problems.

[Reporter] What are the plans for existing vacancies in the Armed Forces cadres?

[Brito] This is part of our study. There are no projections yet. We have the results of the removals decided on for the current budget period. Projections of removals and vacancies are actually reported every month. These vacancies have a numerical impact.

[Reporter] Can you remember the number of vacancies?

[Brito] Look, I do not want to quote the exact number of vacancies because I could be wrong, but surely the number is not less than 9,000. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Venezuela

Transport Minister Augusto Farias Resigns

PA2107234890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2145 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Caracas, 21 Jul (EFE)—Augusto Farias, Venezuelan Transport and Communications minister, resigned today after being accused of alleged acts of corruption on 13 July.

Deputy Luis Emilio Rondon, member of the ruling Democratic Action (AD), accused Farias on 13 July of asking a French company for commissions in exchange for granting the company a contract for the purchase of a radar system.

Rondon said that Farias asked the French company, Thonson [name as received], for a five-percent commission; in turn, he would grant them the contract for supplying a radar system worth $100 million.

The minister said in a news conference today that the accusations made by Rondon have no grounds because the negotiations for the purchase of the radar expired before he assumed his post eight months ago.

Farias said he has never talked to the council of ministers or the economic cabinet about the need to purchase the equipment as Rondon has said.

The minister also said that during his term in office contracts were granted to 1,870 construction companies for 8 billion bolivars—some $20 million—and they were all clean and honest transactions.

Farias said he is going to file a lawsuit against Rondon and also against AD Deputy Pedro Tabata Guzman, who has supported Rondon in making the accusations.

The Transport and Communications minister is the first high-ranking minister of President Carlos Andres Perez's government to be accused of corruption since the current administration came to power in February 1989.

Perez Pleased With Resignation

PA2307031090 Paris AFP in Spanish 0116 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Caracas, 22 Jul (AFP)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez expressed satisfaction today over the first resignation of one of his ministers, Transportation and Communications Minister Augusto Faria, who has been accused of corruption.

Faria resigned yesterday and said that he will face the accusations of alleged corruption. He is accused of corruption in the negotiations to purchase radar from the French Thomson Firm. Ruling social democratic Democratic Action Party (AD) deputies Pedro Tabata and Emilio Rondon made the accusations.

According to the deputies, Faria Viso agreed to receive a $3.5 million commission for the acquisition of the equipment, which is valued at $100 million.

Perez said: "I congratulate Minister Farias for having resigned his post in order to face the accusations that two deputies have made. I am sure that this deal did not occur, but we will wait for the results of the investigations."

Press political experts believe that this accusation against Faria along with others that are being prepared against other ministers of the current administration are part of the struggle among AD factions for control of the party.

Within AD, Perez' opponents, who support former Venezuelan president Jaime Lusinchi (1984-1989), have been involved in a number of accusations of alleged corruption during the last 15 months. The Venezuelan courts have even issued arrest warrants against several former ministers of the Lusinchi administration.

Protests Over Bus Fares Continue in Maracaibo

PA2007130190 Paris AFP in Spanish 0137 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Maracaibo, Venezuela, 18 Jul [as received] (AFP)—Drivers of the 50 routes that cover the metropolitan zone of Maracaibo, about 600 km west of Caracas, tonight announced an indefinite strike of the public transportation system to demand the return of 50 buses seized by university students, who for the third consecutive day have been protesting the raise in bus fares.

According to reports by the local news agency INNAC, the police dispersed violent disturbances in which four students were injured. This forced university authorities to suspend classes at the University of Zulia.

The disturbances, which began because of a 40-percent hike in bus fares, have been going on for the past three days. It has been reported that protests have even increased in view of rumors of a new increase in the price of gasoline—which would further raise the price of public transportation—which the government will officially announce before the end of the week.

In May, the social democratic government of Carlos Andres Perez decided to postpone a raise in the price of fuel, established in the letter of intention signed with the IMF, in view of the violent protests throughout the country.

In February 1989, a hike in the price of gasoline generated violent disturbances and looting in which about 300 people were killed.

Guyana

Da Silva Says Exports to Barbados Increasing

FL2007214390 Bridgetown CANA in English 1646 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, July 20, CANA—A seven-member Barbados trade and investment mission has ended a four-day visit to Guyana with leader Frank da Silva saying the exercise was "very worthwhile."

"We think the visit was very worthwhile and we are optimistic for the middle, medium, and long term future in our relations with Guyana," Da Silva who is also Barbados' high commissioner to Guyana, told CANA [Caribbean News Agency].

He said firm agreements have been entered for Guyanese to export lumber, wooden furniture in its "knock-down" or unassembled state, and wood and ceramic souvenirs for the Barbados tourist trade.

Members of the mission have also taken back samples of raw materials being developed by Guyana's Institute of Applied Science and Technology (IAST) for the production of a number of ceramic items including bathroom fittings. Da Silva said while he could not put a dollar

value on the orders placed, it would be true to say that Guyana's exports to Barbados "are on the way up."

"In our enlightened self-interest, we would like to encourage this because we would like to get back to the days when Barbadian exports flowed freely into Guyana because trade.... to be successful, must be a two way street," the Guyana-born diplomat said.

He told CANA that during the visit, the need was established for the re-activating of the Barbados-Guyana joint commission.

Caribbean Development Bank Resumes Lending

FL2107152990 Bridgetown CANA in English 1500 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Bridgetown, Barbados, July 21, CANA—The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has resumed lending to Guyana, with a $U.S.42 million loan. The move came after payment in full of Guyana's outstanding arrears to the Barbados-based bank, a major source of developmental aid for the Caribbean.

CDB President Neville Nicholls, announced approval of a $U.S.42 million loan and $U.S.2 million technical assistance grant to help finance Guyana's economic recovery programme. He said the CDB resources would assist Guyana in laying the groundwork for sustained growth and development in the medium term by enhancing the environment for private sector development and improving economic management through institution-building.

CDB's last loan to Guyana was approved in 1982. Thereafter, because of its deteriorating economic situation, Guyana had fallen seriously into arrears on its debt service to CDB. Consequently, in keeping with CDB policy on overdue debt service, no new proposals could be considered by the bank for Guyana.

"Guyana became current again on June 22, 1990 [date as received] through payment in full of the $U.S.30.2 million in arrears of principal and interest to CDB," the bank said in a statement released here.

CDB's contribution to the three-year economic recovery programme is part of a joint international arrangement involving multilateral financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as bilateral financing agencies and governments.

CDB has said that success in the Guyana effort was dependent on the country's commitment to the agreed programme, its preparedness to undertake "painful but necessary measures to improve the situation"; and provided that the level of external support pledged for the programme would be forthcoming and on a timely basis. "The decision by the global financial community, Guyana's settling of arrears to the multilateral institutions, and CDB's approval of its largest programme loan to date are the culmination of years of international effort to find a mutually acceptable formula to assist Guyana out of its economic and financial crisis," the bank said.

"The programme has been developed mainly by the government of Guyana in conjunction with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and has as its main objectives the creation of conditions for sustained real growth in the economy, the diversification of production, and the improvement of the state of the physical capital stock in the country." [passage omitted]

Suriname

Suralco Notifies Government of Recent Losses

FL2107112190 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] The Suriname Aluminum Company, Suralco, has suffered losses of between $U.S.10 and $U.S.15 million as a result of the war situation in the Moengo area. The Suralco made this known in a note to the government. The operations of the bauxite company in the Moengo area have during recent times been severely crippled because of the activities of the Jungle Commando which destroyed some of the company's production objects. Following this, Suralco suspended its transfer of foreign currency that it was to submit last month to the state of Suriname. According to reports, Suralco wants to calculate the losses and the production costs as a result of which Suriname will this year receive less money from the company than was agreed upon.

Currently, discussions are underway between the government and Suralco about this matter and about the company's future. Suriname was this year, based on an agreement with the Suralco, to receive $U.S.180 million from the transnational. Bauxite experts say that the reported losses by the Suralco are too high.

The company has, in the meantime, imported 200,000 tons of bauxite from the Dominican Republic. According to the Suralco, this is to supplement the bauxite stock in the refinery until the situation in the Moengo area is back to normal.

Bank Director Opposes Auctioning Dollars

FL1907132690 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] The director of the Suriname Bank, Joseph Brahim, is of the opinion that the auction of the American dollar, as is being planned by the government, will not yield the desired results. According to the bank director, prices will not reduce, as is suggested by Assembly Chairman Jaggernath Lachmon. Brahim said this question is not as simple as it appears at first sight. The

director of the Suriname Bank said that the auction of the dollar will lead to shortages of certain commodities. Brahim said that the imports, which will be financed by these dollars, will be insufficient to satisfy local demands for the commodities. By this auction of the dollar, there will be shortages of goods and this will lead to increased prices, said director Brahim of the Suriname Bank. He declared that the Central Bank had earlier prepared a report over the auctioning of American dollars by the government in which the bank expressed doubts about the planned measure. Brahim warned that the auction will benefit only a small group of people.

President Ramsewak Shankar some weeks ago announced that the government plans to sell by auction $U.S.1 to $U.S.2 million every month. This plan is intended to reduce the big amount of local currency in circulation and regulate the black market trade in foreign currency.